#### BEFORE THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

### TOWN OF MILTON

# MILTON, DELAWARE

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION )
MARCH 13, 2007 )

Hearing held on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at the Milton Library, 121 Union Street, Milton, Delaware, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

#### BEFORE:

MS. LINDA ROGERS, CHAIRPERSON,

MR. DEAN SHERMAN, MR. BILL BRIERLY,

MR. TED KANAKOS, MR. MICHAEL FILICKO,

MR. GENE STEELE, MS. LOUISE FREY,

MS. GINNY WEEKS, MS. BERNICE EDWARDS.

## ALSO PRESENT:

JOHN BRADY, ESQUIRE Attorney for the Town of Milton.

MR. ROBIN DAVIS

MR. BOB KERR

MS. DEBORAH PFEIL, URS Corporation.

ANTHONY REPORTING
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1 MS. ROGERS: Okay. We are going to
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- 2 tonight's meeting of the Planning & Zoning Workshop.
- 3 And the one and only item on the agenda is to go over
- 4 policies and procedures. So URS is here with their
- 5 representative, Debbie, and she is going to more or less
- 6 orchestrate the meeting and give us the information.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: My name is Debbie Pfeil of URS.
- 8 I am your Town Planner. And we have asked for the
- 9 meeting tonight, as we have been tasked to work with
- 10 Robin on building the Department and assisting the
- 11 Planning Commission and the City Council
- 12 (unintelligible) on boards and (unintelligible) and
- 13 actual process.
- 14 So what we are here tonight to do is our
- 15 company sets us up in other municipalities, and we have
- some experience in that area, looking at your charters
- 17 and your codes and what works for you. So tonight what
- 18 I wanted to do, before we just implement a process and
- 19 say how do you like it -- our company is pretty good
- 20 about working where we want to ask for your opinions of
- 21 what you like and what you don't like now, and try to
- incorporate them in some of the changes.
- 23 So the first thing -- and I requested Bob
- 24 Kerr to be here tonight as your City or your Town

- 1 Engineer, because we have -- you have three consultants.
- 2 You have a Town Engineer, which is Cabe and Mr. Kerr;
- 3 you have John Brady as your legal representation, and
- 4 URS company as your Town Planner. So the three of us
- 5 are working on all different aspects to help you out and
- 6 assist you in any way that you need us, especially in
- 7 planning and development.
- 8 What I would first like to do is open up the
- 9 floor with some of the issues that you have in your
- 10 positions that you see you are struggling in the process
- or you would like to see things done a little bit
- 12 better, because I think we can address some of those in
- our changes that I'll go over at the end of the meeting
- 14 tonight.
- And I can kind of throw one out there that
- 16 I've learned from most municipalities is getting your
- 17 meeting packet maybe the night before the meeting or a
- 18 couple of days before your meeting. Sometimes there's a
- 19 lot of information in there. And if you don't have the
- 20 information in advance, maybe you can't look at the
- 21 property to know where it's at or you don't feel
- 22 comfortable in making the right decision with the right
- 23 tools. So I'll throw the first one out there. And if
- 24 anybody wants to, it's just an open forum, where I want

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1 some feedback.
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- I know, I think, a lot of your pains. And I
- 3 think Robin is setting up the department now. He is
- 4 taking on the role as Project Coordinator, and he's
- 5 overseeing code enforcement. So this is a good
- 6 opportunity for him to learn the process by your Code
- 7 and Charter and to allow enough time to give you the
- 8 right tools to make your decision.
- 9 So the first one I had was your needing
- 10 materials, getting your packets in advance was one of
- 11 the first ones. I'll open up to anybody that wants to
- 12 speak so I can just kind of get a list going.
- 13 MS. ROGERS: One of the concerns that I have
- 14 with the procedures that are now being implemented, for
- whatever reason, it used to be if someone came to the
- office and applied for a conditional, use change of
- zone, or a public hearing that required two public
- 18 hearings, one before us and then one before the Council,
- 19 where we recommend to Council, Council makes a decision.
- 20 All of those hearing dates were incorporated in one
- 21 advertisement, one notice. The dates were set.
- 22 So like if this gentleman here has applied
- for something and he knew he had a hearing before us
- 24 tonight, the 13th, he knew that that application would

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1 go before Town Council on probably May -- their first --
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- 2 their meeting in May. So we knew we had until May to
- 3 make a recommendation, review minutes, and have a
- 4 recommendation actually formally ready to go to Council,
- 5 where what I find now is an item is simply put on their
- 6 agenda.
- 7 And many times I don't -- frankly, I don't
- 8 see the copy of the agenda until I get there to realize
- 9 that it is coming before them. And if they are holding
- 10 public hearings, they're not their own public hearings,
- 11 which I'm not sure with all the changes they have been
- making, if that is still a requirement. It used to be.
- So I'm a little confused in that area that
- 14 something like a conditional use or a change of zone or
- whatever, yes, we hear it. We get all the information
- 16 that the citizens have to say, analyze all the
- 17 information that has been given, and present them with a
- 18 recommendation. They, as well, should be hearing what
- 19 the citizens have to say, not just our recommendation.
- MS. PFEIL: Correct.
- 21 MS. ROGERS: So I have a little bit of a
- 22 concern about how that process seems to be -- we hear
- 23 everything. They read our minutes or, hopefully, they
- 24 get to read our minutes. And sometimes I don't know

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1 that they've got them before they actually have it on
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- 2 their agenda. I'm not --
- 3 MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 4 MS. ROGERS: -- real certain of that. So
- 5 they are making something simply by our recommendations.
- 6 And a lot of times the constituency that they are
- 7 representing, they need to hear what they have to say,
- 8 as well.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Okay. So --
- 10 MS. ROGERS: And there can be new
- 11 information, like if we had --
- MS. PFEIL: Correct.
- MS. ROGERS: -- questions that weren't
- 14 answered at our meeting, there may be answers for them
- 15 by the time it goes to Council. So I have a little --
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- MS. ROGERS: -- concern about that.
- MS. PFEIL: So the public hearing process
- 19 and making it fair so that everybody can have their say,
- 20 but also making sure your information is true to the
- 21 letter, given to Council in a proper format for them to
- 22 make a decision --
- MS. ROGERS: Right, and that --
- MS. PFEIL: -- instead of rushed for the

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1 next meeting and hurrying that along.
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- MS. ROGERS: Right, because we have our
- 3 meeting the second -- third Tuesdays -- Thursday -- what
- 4 are we? Tuesdays of the month.
- 5 MS. PFEIL: So the next Monday.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: So, you know, it's like right
- 7 away, it's their meeting. And we are recommending to
- 8 them, and sometimes we don't have time to get the
- 9 minutes back. Like if we put stipulations on a
- 10 conditional use or whatever --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MS. ROGERS: -- we haven't had the minutes
- 13 back to recite, yes, this is exactly what we wanted, or
- 14 no, I thought it was going to be this, or to make sure
- they are correct before it's on the agenda for Council.
- 16 And the way I see it now is simply placed on their
- 17 agenda as an item and not a full-blown regular public
- 18 hearing where they get to hear the Applicant's
- 19 presentation and all of that stuff, unless it's
- 20 specifically requested for a development or something
- 21 like that.
- MS. PFEIL: Plus, when you have two public
- 23 hearings, sometimes you have the people that come to a
- 24 Planning Commission and then the people that want to do

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1 a little bit more political --
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- MS. ROGERS: Right.
- 3 MS. PFEIL: -- issues addressed to the
- 4 second body. So sometimes that could be interpreted as
- 5 double jeopardy, because it could be two different kind
- of forums. Like you said, two totally different topics
- 7 can be brought up.
- 8 MS. ROGERS: Right.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Maybe the developer brought
- 10 something up at the council meeting that they didn't
- 11 bring up in front of you. That's not fair to your due
- 12 process to give your recommendation.
- MS. ROGERS: Right, and I'm just --
- MS. PFEIL: I think we can work on that
- 15 process.
- MS. ROGERS: I'm just a little concerned
- 17 that there's things getting lost --
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 19 MS. ROGERS: -- between Planning & Zoning
- 20 and Council, and people need a right to be able to say
- 21 what they've got to say to both bodies. They need to be
- 22 able to say it to Council, as well as to us.
- MS. PFEIL: Do you feel that push is coming
- 24 from -- more from --

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1 MS. ROGERS: I don't know it's a push. I
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- 2 think it's happening.
- 3 MS. PFEIL: I mean the hurriedness to get it
- 4 done. Like tonight's meeting is pretty fast. It's a
- 5 fast turnover for us, even.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: I honestly don't -- I don't
- 7 know why it happened. It used to be --
- 8 MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 9 MS. ROGERS: -- not like that, and then it
- 10 changed. Now, I don't know why it changed.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- MS. ROGERS: I mean it used to take two to
- 13 three months between us and them --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MS. ROGERS: -- to actually get a decision.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- MS. ROGERS: And I know people are in a
- 18 hurry, but there's due process. And you just have to do
- 19 it.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 21 MS. ROGERS: But we may following the letter
- of our ordinance and, before, we weren't. We were
- 23 adding to --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.

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1 MS. ROGERS: -- and making it more than it
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- was required. I honestly don't know for sure.
- MS. PFEIL: I think we have reviewed a
- 4 couple of those, Robin and I, and you only have a couple
- of ordinances that have time tables on them.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: Uh-huh.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: So I think what we can do is --
- 8 I'm going to speak on behalf of me as a consultant --
- 9 and Bob, if you want to chime in -- but when you give us
- 10 a site plan and want it done in the next week, usually,
- 11 that doesn't -- you are not getting the review. We're
- 12 bringing it to the meeting to meet the demand of the
- 13 Town. So I agree with you, that whole process needs to
- 14 be pre-qualified.
- UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I want to tag something on
- 16 to that. I hadn't even thought about bringing it up
- 17 tonight. But I would like to. Is this alive?
- 18 MR. DAVIS: (Unintelligible) the speaker on.
- 19 You're on.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's recording?
- MR. DAVIS: Yes.
- 22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: There are a number of
- 23 little things that sort of fly around, as far as active
- 24 business is concerned in a small town. For instance --

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and I'm going to bring up one that's been of some
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- 2 concern to me in the last few days. And that is the
- 3 cost of licensure for a business in the Town of Milton.
- 4 It segways pretty directly from things that we do in
- 5 Planning & Zoning to things that they do at the town
- 6 level and to the business community.
- 7 But there's no sense -- and I'm not even
- 8 sure how to phrase this. I think this needs to be at
- 9 very carefully and very thoroughly. There's no real
- sense of coordination. So you have people over here
- who are angry because they are feasible enough or they
- 12 can't -- this is the business community -- or they can't
- 13 find a place for their people to park, which is another
- 14 big issue. And those things kind of fester, and then
- 15 they get brought out in oddball ways, and everybody
- wonders why everybody else is pissed off. And pardon
- 17 the phrase, but --
- 18 MS. PFEIL: Directness works here.
- 19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- it fits in this
- 20 category. And I don't know that that's even your role.
- 21 But somebody who is not tied down to any vested interest
- 22 in the community needs to get involved in this. And I'm
- 23 just thinking out loud.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.

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1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But you might be the
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- 2 person to do this. Because I believe if we don't do a
- 3 better job of this, these issues are going to have a
- 4 life of their own. And then nothing is going to happen.
- 5 MS. PFEIL: And I agree with you. Fees are
- 6 a big topic in most municipalities, Kent County, Sussex
- 7 County. In all municipalities they need to be justified
- 8 as to what -- the collection of those that are covering
- 9 costs. I think once they are justified, it's a little
- 10 bit easier for all those involved, the collectors and
- 11 the PEs to understand.
- 12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Justified sounds easy.
- 13 But I'm sure you very well know it's not. So I mean --
- 14 but that's true. That's --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- a good point. I agree
- 17 with that.
- 18 MS. PFEIL: Yes. Okay. I know we've got
- 19 some more.
- 20 MS. WEEKS: Can I expand on what Linda said?
- MS. PFEIL: Uh-huh.
- MS. WEEKS: I agree with her. I think that
- 23 it would be -- I think that it would be a great help if
- 24 we had written procedures, you know, that could also be

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1 handed out. I understand that the Planning Department
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- 2 at Town Hall is fairly new. You know, Eric was a code
- 3 enforcement officer --
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Uh-huh.
- 5 MS. ROGERS: -- and with the growth going on
- 6 in the town, it's a very difficult position. But it
- 7 would be nice to have a handout to give to people when
- 8 they come in, when the public comes in.
- 9 Going back, for example, to the Iguana
- 10 Grill. They came in, and they wanted a site review and
- 11 permission to open the restaurant and so on. And they
- 12 wanted it now, and they weren't prepared. And we let it
- go and so on and so forth.
- 14 And I think that the public also needs to
- 15 have some sort of a handout at the beginning that says:
- 16 Look, this is how it is in town. You come in. This is
- 17 what you can expect, and this is how long it should
- 18 take. And that should be something we get, they get, so
- 19 we're all on the same page.
- 20 MS. PFEIL: I agree. I think a good
- 21 example, to let you know, too, that we started -- and
- 22 Mrs. Frey could probably attest to this -- is the
- 23 Annexation Committee is meeting tomorrow. And we have
- 24 started a book there of what your Charter -- like a

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1 quick facts sheet of what your Charter and what they
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- 2 need to attend. I think that type of process is
- 3 helpful. It just has to be made sure that it
- 4 complements your Code and your Charter. But I think
- 5 that's great.
- 6 And Robin and I are already trying to set up
- 7 what we call a pre-development customer meeting, where
- 8 they come in. The goal here is to not hold up
- 9 development or delay it. But when you make a decision,
- 10 everybody at the table, whether they agree or disagree,
- 11 should feel comfortable in the decision. And there
- 12 shouldn't be a lot of contingent-upons or a lot of
- 13 cleanup for your staff to do. When you leave here with
- 14 a big laundry list of all your next -- you know, we want
- 15 you to go ahead -- we are going to approve you
- 16 contingent upon all of these things, and then Robin has
- 17 to go back and make sure they're all done.
- 18 MS. WEEKS: And I'm not even sure that we're
- 19 all working from the same issue of the zoning code.
- 20 Maybe we all need to be given good, clean copies. And
- 21 another thing that I would like to see is that when we
- 22 get our packets, that certain articles in the zoning
- 23 that pertain to that discussion are listed on the
- 24 packet, that it comes from the Planning Department that,

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1 you know, we need to pay not only to the special
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- 2 attention to this article and that article and so on,
- 3 that help us wade through it.
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Right. And I think after
- 5 what -- I don't know how long everybody's been on the
- 6 Board, because I've just -- this is my first Planning
- 7 Commission meeting. But after a while, I think you know
- 8 your Code pretty well, probably even better than some of
- 9 your staff, if you do your homework. But I think on the
- 10 review letters -- I know from our company, and I'm sure
- 11 Bob does it -- where you cite what the zoning is and
- some of the code sections, because there's a lot of
- 13 hidden stuff -- not hidden, but not necessarily user-
- 14 friendly throughout the Code. You also need to find
- this number back here that has a lot that could affect
- 16 the Code and the one up here.
- 17 So I think we could do -- Robin and I have
- 18 talked about doing a better job with the packets, making
- 19 sure that you have the information in there. But we
- 20 also want to relay that the Commission has ultimate
- 21 recommendation on what they feel should be the
- 22 recommendation to Council.
- 23 You probably won't hear me in my position
- 24 say: I think it's a go. Go ahead and vote yes. I will

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1 never be put in that situation. I won't give you that
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- 2 advice. My job is to let you know some of the items
- 3 that you want to further discuss, some of the items you
- 4 may want to push, some of the recommendations outside of
- 5 your Code, even, that you might be able to get if the
- 6 developer works with you.
- 7 It's probably the same way in Bob's letters,
- 8 I would assume, what they've missed, what they haven't
- 9 missed. So I think we could do a better job with the
- 10 packets in advance, giving you more thorough
- information, because between a review letter from
- 12 planner, your engineer, and if needed, the lawyer --
- 13 depending on what we are talking about -- I think
- 14 between those three and your Code, that should be a
- 15 smoother meeting.
- MS. WEEKS: That would be wonderful.
- MS. PFEIL: Hopefully. All right.
- MS. WEEKS: Thank you.
- MS. PFEIL: Anybody else?
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This is off the subject,
- 21 but how is our attorney doing? I know he's been sick
- 22 and I --
- MR. DAVIS: He's better. He was supposed to
- 24 be here tonight.

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1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay. Good. I'm sorry.
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- 2 I just --
- 3 MS. PFEIL: That's okay. I know he's been
- 4 sick.
- 5 MR. DAVIS: Yes. He's out of the hospital,
- and he's up and running, playing catch up now, I think.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Some of the other ones I'll
- 8 bring up, just to kind of open the conversation up, too,
- 9 is sometimes when planning commissions I've heard --
- 10 I've had some other open forums like this in other
- 11 municipalities -- they are unsure, when they approve a
- 12 project. Like they walk out of the room and they are
- 13 like, oh, we should have done that, we should have got
- 14 this, or maybe we could have pushed this. And that's
- 15 usually from not being prepared on maybe the Town giving
- 16 you this stuff in advance or you didn't have enough time
- 17 because, you know, you get paid so much to be a planning
- 18 commissioner in every town. It's a volunteer job.
- 19 There's too many contingencies; there's too much clean
- 20 up.
- 21 The other one I want to kind of go into --
- 22 and this is something that we tried at a couple
- 23 municipalities -- is your meeting format and the length
- of time. I know when I was a Planning & Zoning Director

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1 at Georgetown, sometimes we went from seven to midnight.
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- 2 Sometimes it was even later. And when you hit that time
- 3 frame of after two hours, two and a half hours, you can
- 4 tell, like our comp plan committee, it's just -- you're
- 5 not as productive. So a thought might be for you to
- 6 try, if you are open to it, would be having a meeting
- 7 format of the topic items. We tried that in Georgetown,
- 8 and it went faster. And if we had the meeting topics in
- 9 order, if I can work with your engineer, your City
- 10 Solicitor, and myself -- where maybe you start with like
- 11 the topic of parking, and that's the first topic that's
- 12 discussed. So everybody on the Commission, where our
- 13 review letters will been discussed, that's your parking
- 14 issue. Sometimes when you have discussions, you come
- 15 back to it an hour later, because maybe that's when the
- 16 thought got opened up.
- But if you had a meeting outline of the
- 18 topics that you are going for, the developer can also
- 19 prepare with your topics that way, you know, when Robin
- 20 meets them in advance. You can do your homework in that
- 21 format. It's a worksheet you can fill out, if you want.
- Next to parking, you put your comments and bring them in
- your packet. If you're a person that does the verbal,
- 24 if you're a written person, it's totally your call. But

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1 sometimes that shortness up the meeting lengths, and it
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- 2 gets it usually in a routine, and it can -- it can have
- 3 the meeting go a little bit better and it's more
- 4 structured, plus it really helps your minutes, because
- 5 you're on that topic and you get them (unintelligible).
- 6 You're on the next topic. So when Robin gets the site
- 7 plan to come back in again, it's the same format for all
- 8 of us. And to do a review, it should take less time,
- 9 because we're in the same kind of format, the same
- 10 routine. That's a thought you might want to try,
- something we could set up and try at a couple of
- 12 meetings to see if you like that. That's very basic.
- 13 You can go for -- you can put infrastructure or you can
- 14 break it down even deeper, where it comes to water and
- 15 sewer, whatever, however you want to break it down.
- 16 That might be a good option for you.
- 17 On the consultant's side, this is something
- 18 we usually run into a lot, is you have a developer comes
- in and they have a -- they needed it done yesterday. I
- 20 think anybody that's in any kind of a job or customer
- 21 service, everybody needs that. Your consultants really
- 22 need time to review the project. Unfortunately, I mean
- 23 why -- everybody wants to give you good customer
- service, just like in probably the businesses you have,

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1 it's not the only customer. And you really kind of want
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- 2 to be fair and run the first come, first served. So a
- 3 good time frame review in our area is usually two to
- 4 three weeks. We prefer, probably, three. Is that about
- 5 right? Three to four would be even better. But three
- 6 is usually a time where we can review it and at least
- 7 get something back to Robin, whether it's going to be an
- 8 e-mail, a fax, or hand-delivered or mailed. That would
- 9 give us time to get a letter, so it's in your packet
- 10 ahead of time.
- 11 And the other thing we do is we have Robin
- 12 disperse that to the developers. So when they come to
- 13 the meetings, they are prepared to discuss the issues
- 14 that your consultants had right up front. They are not
- 15 surprised. They are not unprepared. We could truly go
- for the issues that maybe we have on some of the site
- 17 plans.
- 18 And the review letters are important,
- 19 because that gives us a sense of we did the job that you
- 20 paid us to do, that if you do it -- if we are doing a
- 21 conceptual review, you have my letter in conceptual
- 22 review. You choose what you want to use out of that.
- 23 When it comes back, I take your minutes and we go do
- 24 your preliminary, for example, on a site plan. So

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that's a product that you get, that you definitely want
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- 2 to have in your packets.
- And let's see. Some of the other ones are
- 4 that just -- I was going to have John touch on this a
- 5 little bit tonight -- was kind of like ethics and
- 6 conflicts of interest. I'm sure everybody has heard
- 7 this, but this is usually big in Planning Commission,
- 8 probably more so in Council. But I would like to just
- 9 give little recommendations to the Planning Commission.
- 10 Something to probably keep you out of
- 11 litigation or out of any kind of potential issue or
- 12 conflict of interest is any kind of discussions or
- 13 meetings outside of Planning Commission with a
- 14 developer, and a developer or a businessperson
- 15 pertaining to probably that project. I was going to
- 16 have John speak about this, but that could probably open
- 17 you up to potential litigation. I just want to let you
- 18 aware of that.
- 19 Conflict of interest, if you feel that you
- 20 have a conflict of interest at all, it's just better to
- 21 recuse yourself. I mean it just puts the whole city or
- the whole town in jeopardy. People, usually, in small
- towns know conflicts before we even know what they are.
- 24 So you know them.

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                  The other one, just a friendly one, just to
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      let you know, is representation outside. The body of
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      the Planning Commission is truly in this meeting place
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      once a month or when -- the other time is when you're
 5
      attending a workshop and it's something that the Town
 6
      has paid for or that they want you to represent. Any
 7
      other time -- (unintelligible). Any other time you are
      what your role is.
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                  For example, a good example would be if
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      Robin went to -- let's see -- at 8:00 at night, went to
      somebody's house or -- a good one was just like
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      elections time. This is a good one. That's the one I
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      keep thinking of, because it's a hot topic. Remember
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      what your hours are and remember what the parameters
      are, just so you don't get caught maybe misrepresenting
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      the City or misrepresenting the Town or representing the
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      Town when it's not an official meeting. That's just
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      something I note, just to give you a heads-up on.
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                  Now, here's probably the biggest change we
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      are thinking about doing. This is the one I want to go
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      for you. The biggest one we are thinking about doing --
      and I think it's beneficial for everybody, from what we
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23
      have heard -- is pre-qualify the applications and make
      them eligible. For example, Robin's role would be when
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- 1 they first come and meet for a pre-development meeting,
- 2 his job starts customer service, starts getting them on
- 3 track, starts giving them copies of the Code, letting
- 4 them know their fees, the checklist. His job is to get
- 5 them on track and let them know about a tentative time
- 6 frame, depending on what we come up with. Then he would
- 7 also pre-qualify them for John, Bob, and myself.
- I mean we wouldn't get site plans that don't
- 9 meet the requirement checklist, because that's a big
- 10 waste of the developer's time, a big waste of our time.
- 11 If they don't meet the checklist, it's pretty much
- 12 saying: You are missing items such-and-such and
- 13 such-and-such. And it's already in your Code. It's in
- 14 black and white. It's pretty easy.
- So we're going to have Robin take off some
- of the time from us. And he will have like a
- 17 spreadsheet, just to state did they comply or didn't
- 18 they comply. If they complied in all areas -- and maybe
- 19 he has a question on one or two -- then it would go
- 20 forward for us to review. But he's pre-qualifying for
- 21 us. I can't tell you probably how many times we've had
- 22 incomplete reviews. And all's it is is pretty much a
- good checklist for somebody to start doing the job
- 24 fully, correctly or appropriately.

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1 Third is the Planning Commission. So that's
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- 2 the -- that third eligibility is your Planning
- 3 Commission. You want to make sure that you feel
- 4 comfortable in all your decisions, everything outside of
- 5 the box and inside of the box. And then the fourth is
- 6 going to be to the Town Council to make their decision.
- 7 So you are going through your Planning Department, your
- 8 consultants, the Planning Commission before it gets to
- 9 Town Council.
- 10 At that point we are hoping to get it to a
- 11 rubber stamp time frame, where it's truly everybody has
- 12 done all their homework. We've done everything by the
- 13 Code. We've dotted the Is, crossed the Ts, and given
- 14 them a good product in a packet for them to make a
- 15 decision.
- 16 During that time is usually when John gets a
- 17 little more involved, because it could be anything for
- 18 financial consideration, gain, any agreements, public
- 19 works, annexations. That's when you really need to
- 20 bring the lawyer with the consultant to say: This is
- 21 how -- you know, what the Planning Commission wanted,
- 22 what the City Staff wanted of the deal. And he knows
- 23 all the proper wordings to keep us out of trouble to put
- 24 it in there.

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1 So we are trying to go for the pre-qualifier
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- 2 eligibility. And usually, this is perceived as a good
- 3 move by developers, because it's black and white. We
- 4 are already winning points by Robin meeting with people,
- 5 because sometimes before me, when they came to the Town,
- 6 it just wasn't clear and they just went right to the
- 7 Planning Commission, opened it up to nine people, and
- 8 they haven't done their homework yet. It's not fair to
- 9 you, and it's not fair to them. So I think it's great
- 10 that the Town has invested in a planning -- Project
- 11 Coordinator position.
- 12 The meeting format is something we would
- 13 like to try. We want to look at the agenda. We're even
- 14 having the lawyer a little bit more involved, to make
- sure that it is properly advertised with the right
- 16 wording and the right parcels and the right locations.
- 17 So anybody reading an agenda will know exactly what we
- 18 are talking about. Is it a preliminary site plan? Is
- 19 it conceptual? Is it a conditional use? We want those
- 20 wordings.
- 21 And I can see Milton, from their history,
- 22 has a lot of good agenda wordings. We just want to make
- 23 sure that when you read an agenda, you know what it's
- 24 about. Whether you are highly educated, uneducated, or

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1 at any level at all, you can read that. The
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- 2 predevelopment customer meetings --
- 3 MS. WEEKS: Deb?
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 5 MS. WEEKS: Can I ask you a question now?
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Sure.
- 7 MS. WEEKS: At the bottom of the agendas
- 8 here, and I've just -- you know, this just seems to be
- 9 the way it is -- is that you can amend the agenda.
- 10 What --
- MR. BRADY: The Attorney General's Office,
- in a number of opinions issued in 2006 and 2007, have
- 13 clarified how you can amend an agenda. Agendas can be
- 14 amended if something comes up at the time of the
- 15 meeting. If something is known before the meeting, the
- 16 agenda should be amended before the meeting to give
- 17 public notice of that item. Items can be -- agendas can
- 18 be amended up to six hours before a meeting and
- 19 published by posting at the location of the meeting and
- in a central location, as under the Town Charter, where
- 21 public notices are to be, which is in front of Town
- 22 Hall.
- The issue that came up is when agendas, as
- 24 Debbie just talked about, are not clear to the average

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1 person as to what specifically is going to be discussed
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- 2 in public business. And the Attorney General's Office
- 3 has made it very clear in a number of recent opinions,
- 4 including Milton, Middletown, and several other towns,
- 5 that items of public business have to be properly
- 6 noticed and announced when the agenda is posted. And if
- 7 that agenda item is not posted seven days prior, there
- 8 has to be an explanation as to why.
- 9 For example, if litigation was filed or
- 10 there was a major flood or a building started to fall
- down, something like that, you have to put on the bottom
- of the agenda the reason why the agenda has been amended
- 13 pursuant to Chapter 101 of Title 29.
- 14 And so what I've been trying to do is
- 15 working with Robin and the affected chairs to make sure
- our agendas comply with those requirements.
- 17 MS. WEEKS: The crux of my -- where I was
- 18 going was that I just wanted to know -- for example,
- 19 somebody comes in and they want to build something and
- 20 what the plans are and so on that we received in our
- 21 packet and what they are saying at the floor, the floor,
- 22 they are now expressing that they want more than was
- 23 begin to us. Are we allowed to approve something like
- 24 that?

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1 MR. BRADY: Well, when they come in -- and
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- 2 that's part of what the pre-qualification is designed to
- 3 do, because when they come in and they say for a
- 4 conceptual site plan -- as you recall last fall, we had
- 5 the school district come in and wanted final site
- 6 approval at their first presentation. And final site
- 7 approval is not permitted under the Code. There had to
- 8 be at least a week apart between a conceptual and
- 9 preliminary site plan and final plan, the way the Code
- 10 read.
- 11 So that's why they were told we can announce
- 12 a special meeting. We can put an agenda. But we are
- 13 limited as to what -- and that is what the
- 14 pre-qualification and what the project role is going to
- be, to help make sure that what they want is spelled out
- 16 right up front.
- 17 Recently, we have had a couple of issues
- 18 dealing with a new restaurant that is in Rehoboth and is
- 19 moving here to town. And it has some Mexican name --
- 20 and I'm forgetting it.
- MS. ROGERS: Iguana Grill.
- MS. WEEKS: Iguana Grill.
- 23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Iguana Grill.
- MR. BRADY: Iguana Grill, that qualifies as

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1 a Mexican name. And not to be disrespectful, but we had
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- 2 the issue about they put in one thing and then they
- 3 asked about something else that night. And that's when
- 4 I said: You have to come get a conditional use, and you
- 5 haven't put that in.
- 6 The goal of the pre-qualifying and the
- 7 consulting is to get closer to one stop shopping to be
- 8 more user-friendly, but to comply with the requirements
- 9 of the Code. Does that answer your question, Ms. Weeks?
- MS. WEEKS: Thank you.
- 11 MS. PFEIL: And to state that a little
- 12 further, when Robin meets with them, they might not get
- 13 all the answers that they want because they could
- 14 contest the way the Code is written. They could say:
- 15 There is a gray area in here. We think we fit in here.
- 16 So at that point, Robin may have to shoot a letter and
- 17 e-mail to the attorney to get a legal interpretation to
- 18 find out which route do they have to go? Do they have
- 19 to go to Planning & Zoning? Do they have to go to
- 20 conditional use? Do they have Board of Adjustment?
- 21 That meeting -- After a little bit of years in that
- 22 position, you'll be able to dictate pretty good. But
- 23 right now, you will always have the right to say: Okay.
- 24 He's given me everything. Let me get a response back to

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1 you within seven days or ten days, a good time frame.
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- 2 But give the facts, because the worst thing that could
- 3 happen is going in front of the Planning Commission to
- 4 find out it's maybe a Board of Adjustment issue.
- 5 MS. WEEKS: Right.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: That's a whole different
- 7 proceeding, a whole advertisement, a whole different
- 8 process. So that, hopefully, will clarify everything --
- 9 MS. WEEKS: Yes.
- 10 MS. PFEIL: -- and get the lawyer involved
- 11 up front instead of at the end.
- MS. WEEKS: I love the idea of the
- 13 pre-qualifier. Also, I'm saying if they come in and
- 14 what they are asking for differs from what is on the
- 15 pre-qualifying paper, is that a change in agenda? Can
- we approve it, or do they have to come back?
- MR. BRADY: It depends on what the agendas
- 18 ask for. If it comes in and it comes in and it looks
- 19 like they were coming in for a preliminary site plan,
- 20 but they need a conditional use because of another
- 21 factor, then no, you can't change that to a conditional
- 22 use. That's something that didn't arise at the time of
- 23 the meeting.
- MS. WEEKS: If they are coming in for 370

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1 houses and when they get here, they want 410, is that
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- 2 something we to re-advertise?
- 3 MS. PFEIL: Well, I can let you know that
- 4 you could table it, because our reviews were done on
- 5 what was presented in the application.
- 6 MR. BRADY: Correct.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: And your decisions are being
- 8 made on what is presented ahead of time in the
- 9 application.
- 10 MS. WEEKS: That's what I needed to know.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 MR. BRADY: At the last -- three of the last
- 13 five Planning & Zoning meetings, you were concerned, as
- 14 I perceived it, that information was coming in the night
- of the meeting. And it wasn't -- you weren't able to
- 16 get Bob's review. People would look at me. And I would
- 17 like go in the Code and go right here and say: Okay.
- 18 This could be a home occupancy if they did this. This
- 19 is what we are trying to eliminate, trying to make the
- 20 process a better process, a more predictable process,
- 21 plus people want to go home at 9:30 and not at 11.
- 22 Right, Ms. Rogers?
- MS. ROGERS: Uh-huh.
- MR. FILICKO: Speaking of agendas, I

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1 apologize to the committee members and to the public. I
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- 2 thought that our meeting tonight was at seven, and
- 3 tomorrow's meeting was at 6:30. And I called Town Hall
- 4 to clarify that. And that is, indeed, what they told
- 5 me. I can't remember who I spoke to, but I'm very sorry
- 6 I wasn't here on time. Ma'am, you look familiar. I
- 7 think we met at --
- 8 MS. PFEIL: The company planning --
- 9 MR. FILICKO: The high school?
- 10 MS. PFEIL: Yes. Debbie Pfeil with URS.
- 11 MR. FILICKO: Debbie.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MR. FILICKO: Okay. Debbie.
- MS. PFEIL: I'll see you tomorrow night.
- MR. FILICKO: All right.
- 16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Well, Michael, you are --
- 17 really, you are on for tomorrow night's meeting.
- 18 MR. FILICKO: Yes, I am.
- 19 MS. PFEIL: Is there anything else -- what
- 20 we're going to do is Robin and I are going to work a
- 21 little bit on this tomorrow, and we have some annexation
- 22 notices we've got to get out on a timeline. And then
- 23 what I would like to do is have some conversations with
- 24 Bob and John about how we work in the process and how

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1 much time we might need before we set it up. So we
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- 2 all -- the time that you need, we also need time on the
- 3 project to be able to do a good job for you. So I think
- 4 what we'll do is go through -- I would like to take all
- 5 our processes. We have the annexation one that I need
- 6 to send to the attorney to make -- to John, just to make
- 7 sure that that's exactly by Charter and Code that I
- 8 found. We would like to do the same thing with the
- 9 rezones, every single process you have, have the cheat
- 10 sheet, but refer to your Charter as a tool to be able to
- 11 use. That helps us out a lot when you have that
- 12 pre-development meeting. And you give them a whole
- 13 stack of codes, and they have to kind of hit or miss. I
- 14 think it will help us all out a little bit.
- MR. FILICKO: Debbie?
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 17 MR. FILICKO: I don't know if this is the
- 18 appropriate time to ask this question. It is a zoning
- 19 question that I've got.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 21 MR. FILICKO: When developers apply for the
- 22 LPD overlay, which is what the Governor calls Livable
- 23 Delaware, which is looking for -- which consists of the
- homes close together, like an old-time neighborhood and

- 1 with a common green space.
- 2 Since I've been on this committee, Debbie,
- 3 and we have been doing these LPD over lays, it seems as
- 4 though the homes are, indeed, close together, but the
- 5 green space is nonexistent. Now, what I personally
- 6 would like to see is if the homes are going to be close
- 7 together and, say, if you want to build a house on any
- 8 street here in town, you have to have 10,000 square feet
- 9 of lot space. Correct?
- 10 MS. PFEIL: Correct.
- MR. FILICKO: Well, if you have a house
- that's on 5,000 square feet, then there should be
- 13 5,000 square feet of green space for the people who live
- in that community to use. And that's, I guess, what
- upsets me when we approve these LPDs. It seems as
- 16 though the developer is taking advantage of Livable
- 17 Delaware.
- 18 MS. PFEIL: I think in my experience in
- 19 writing an RPC zoning -- and I'll refer back to
- 20 Georgetown that we used -- the intent of writing a mixed
- 21 use was to get better design, a better quality of life,
- 22 better amenities, better open space. But I haven't been
- 23 privy to your LPD, because I haven't had to use that
- 24 yet. Maybe that Code -- and I'm probably going to defer

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1 to Bob. Maybe that Code might need to be looked at on
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- 2 your -- you know, your Ordinance Review Committee to see
- 3 if it has enough teeth. Does it have the right
- 4 percentage for open space, and are we enforcing it
- 5 properly?
- 6 MS. WEEKS: It's one of the most
- 7 loosey-goosey ordinances I've ever seen in my life.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You --
- 9 MR. FILICKO: When are you (unintelligible)?
- 10 MS. WEEKS: Remember when something came in
- 11 for -- I think it was The Cannery, where townhouses were
- 12 going to condominiums. And I was told: Well, they can
- do that if they want, under section so on and so forth.
- 14 So it really takes a lot of control away from us, if I
- 15 understand it correctly.
- 16 MR. KERR: I believe in the ones that you
- 17 have approved, they do have the correct amount of open
- 18 space. It's the way the open space is counted and the
- 19 way in which -- Let me give you an example, and I'll use
- 20 Kentwoods, Kent -- the one we went over to in the
- 21 Washington area to look at.
- MS. ROGERS: Kentlands.
- 23 MR. KERR: Kentlands, thank you. Not woods,
- 24 but lands. And there was one little area that was about

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a 60-foot square. It was a square in the center of the
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- 2 road. The road went around it, not as a circle, but as
- 3 a square. And they were very proud of that as open
- 4 space. Well, I kind of considered it part of the road,
- 5 because I wouldn't want a kid to even stand in it, much
- 6 less anything else. But it -- that's considered a nice
- 7 open space. And so every place where you see the little
- 8 news between houses in Cannery Village, that's open
- 9 space. There could be a lot line, and it's five feet to
- 10 the right-of-way line to the street times the length of
- 11 the street, five feet wide times that length, that's
- 12 open space. So you don't necessarily see large open
- spaces where you can play, but there's a lot of little
- 14 pieces. I don't necessarily agree with it. I didn't --
- 15 you will recall Cannery Village is not one of my --
- MR. FILICKO: I do recall.
- 17 MR. KERR: Favorite places. But that was
- 18 how the ordinance was written and how I at least thought
- 19 we had to interpret it and you wanted to seem to really
- 20 push things around there. But --
- 21 MR. FILICKO: We probably are
- 22 interpreting --
- 23 MR. KERR: -- there's a lot of --
- MR. FILICKO: -- interpreting it to the law;

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1 however, it seems to me like the ordinance should change
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- 2 to allow -- and for example, when Mr. McMann -- is
- 3 that --
- 4 MR. KERR: Uh-huh.
- 5 MR. FILICKO: Ed McMann, when he was here,
- 6 he had that beautiful Power Point presentation. And
- 7 also, in his book, a prime example of open space was
- 8 Shipcarpenter Square, which we're all familiar with.
- 9 Now, granted, we don't have to have million dollar homes
- 10 like they have at Shipcarpenter Square. But if we are
- 11 going to allow and permit the smaller lots, let's
- 12 require a park-like setting for the residents that's
- 13 not, just like you said, 60 feet.
- 14 MR. KERR: I think Cannery Village ends up
- 15 with a lot of park-like settings when it's said and
- done. When you see that, you are going to see a lot of
- 17 little parks as opposed to one -- you know, you and I
- 18 probably grew up with more like baseball fields --
- MR. FILICKO: Yes.
- MR. KERR: And football fields.
- MR. FILICKO: Right.
- MR. KERR: They don't have that.
- MR. FILICKO: We had an island.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.

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1
                  MR. KERR: Yeah.
 2
                  MS. PFEIL: Now, in your ordinance, what we
 3
      want to do with this process -- you brought up was a
 4
      really good point -- is while we're going through this
 5
      process and with having your three consultants on board,
 6
      we are probably going to find areas in your Code that we
 7
      might recommend go to Ordinance Review Committee. And I
 8
      think it's very important that those move along forward.
 9
      I'm sure that everybody gets overwhelmed. I know
10
      probably the three of us do and I'm sure everybody on
      the Planning Commission and the Town.
11
12
                  But when you find something wrong in your
13
      Code -- and it's usually somebody tested you on it --
14
      and you find something that wasn't exactly the way you
      thought it was when you passed it, you want to get that
15
16
      right back to your Ordinance Review Committee with your
17
      recommendation to get that moving along in the process
18
      to change your research, because a lot of times we put
      those little projects on the back burner. And they just
19
20
      eat at you every meeting. Every time somebody comes in
21
      with a project, it eats at you again.
22
                  Another thing you can do is -- I know George
23
      and the Mayor really want this pushed probably in the
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next year -- is design standards. Design standards

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1 would allow you to have -- for example, the chapter that
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- 2 we write for design standards, you have to have so much
- 3 active space, and you have to have so much passive open
- 4 space. And you get to choose three out of ten or five
- 5 out of 20, a tot lot, or there's several things you can
- 6 choose. You have options. So you're not telling them:
- 7 We want all, you know, all trails, we want all tot lots
- 8 everywhere, because that might not be the group that
- 9 they are going to for the real estate market.
- But you can have them choose and guarantee.
- 11 You'll know that you have three active or three passive
- 12 or both. So design standards, I think, is probably the
- 13 next move, within a year or something, just something to
- 14 think about.
- MS. WEEKS: Getting back to the procedures,
- there are two things I would like to throw out to the
- 17 Board. I would have loved to have had an orientation of
- 18 some sort when I came on board Planning & Zoning, and I
- 19 think that perhaps that should be incorporated. And
- 20 also, I would like to be kept advised, I guess, through
- 21 Town Hall, like when IPA has courses in planning up in
- Dover that we could attend. You know, I don't know how
- 23 to access that or how to find out about it.
- MS. PFEIL: That's a great class. The Board

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of Adjustment one is phenomenal. The Planning
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- 2 Commission one is outside the toolbox. All of those
- 3 classes are geared towards planning commissioners and
- 4 Council and on the level that you get pamphlets and
- 5 packages that you can use years from now. Those are on
- 6 the website.
- 7 What we want to make sure and do is not to
- 8 turn a lot more responsibility back to your staff. We
- 9 want to empower you, and you have the capabilities to
- 10 learn, you know. But I will get you that website.
- 11 Those classes are 25 or \$30, and I'm sure that, you
- 12 know, the Town has a budget for training in there.
- 13 Those are phenomenal.
- 14 You'll see other municipalities there. It's
- a great time to network to say: We have this situation.
- 16 What would you do? And they said: We have this
- 17 situation, what would you do? That is a good
- 18 camaraderie to build with the networking with other
- 19 towns, as well. Those are great classes.
- MS. WEEKS: If we could get the website,
- 21 that would --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes. We'll get that to you
- 23 tomorrow morning.
- MS. WEEKS: -- that could be part of an

- 1 orientation. Thank you.
- MS. PFEIL: Yep. That's great, because that
- 3 goes into state law. That's something that we probably
- 4 never get a chance to, because your commissions and
- 5 councils constantly sometimes change every year, so then
- 6 you have another orientation and another orientation and
- 7 laws change. So I think that's a good one. It goes
- 8 into state law, and it goes a little bit more into your
- 9 Charter about your empowerment.
- 10 And then we copied tonight your Chapter 2,
- 11 basically what is the rule of the planning commissioner
- 12 that you'll see there, try to (unintelligible). But
- 13 that's -- anybody that wants to learn outside is
- 14 excellent -- IPA is a good resource to tap into.
- MR. FILICKO: IPA?
- MS. PFEIL: IPA. University of Delaware has
- 17 IPA, which is Institute of Public Administration.
- 18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. I found those
- 19 classes very helpful --
- MS. PFEIL: They are.
- 21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- and actually wish, in
- 22 addition, they would have meetings where people on
- 23 Planning & Zoning Commissions could just come together
- 24 and talk about practical problems they are having and

- 1 how did each other handle it.
- 2 MS. PFEIL: And I think it's -- there's not
- 3 a resource to tap into --
- 4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Because this one didn't
- 5 have much free time.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: There's not a lot of resources
- 7 to tap into in your position, because I can bring -- and
- 8 John could have, and Bob, in some of the municipalities
- 9 that we represent -- and you then talk about planning
- 10 issues. But your codes and charters are off the wall,
- 11 totally different. Your vision is are off the wall,
- 12 totally different, because every municipality wants to
- 13 somewhat follow the rules of other municipalities, but
- 14 doesn't want to be like them. So you run into the
- 15 general discussions are great. But that is really why
- 16 you pay a Project Coordinator, a Town Manager. You pay
- 17 your three consultants. I mean that's really the
- 18 positions that you want to be able to tap into through
- 19 Robin.
- 20 Robin is going to be your funnel. Robin is
- 21 our funnel back to the Planning Commission. And then we
- just would attend the meetings where you would need us
- 23 to be at the meetings.
- 24 I'm going to see if Bob and John have

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1 anything to say, kind of, since we are talking about
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- 2 processes and frustrations and things we're trying to
- 3 get back on track. I know we can go into probably
- 4 details, but some advice or thoughts?
- 5 MR. BRADY: On a personal note, I would like
- 6 to thank the Town and you all for the cards and flowers
- 7 when I spent my week in Beebe. It's not often that I
- 8 miss two consecutive town meetings and an election.
- 9 I will tell you that while I was in the
- 10 hospital, they called me during the election. They
- 11 called me during the town meeting, both of them. I just
- 12 wasn't able to drive, because one eye was swollen shut,
- 13 and my face was -- I looked somewhere between the
- 14 Elephant Man and Gorbachev. But I thank you.
- The doctor said I'm not allowed to go back
- to work until April 10th. So you can see I'm constantly
- 17 following the doctor's orders. But I was up in Dover
- 18 today for the legislature, and I'm sorry I was a little
- 19 late tonight. But I've talked to Debbie. I've worked
- 20 with Debbie before in Georgetown. And I believe that
- 21 after discussions with Madam Chair about trying to get
- 22 to things, so we don't waste time at meetings, that this
- 23 process meeting tonight will help make a better process
- 24 and better decision-making information in your hands for

- 1 when you make those decisions.
- 2 MR. FILICKO: John, I didn't even know you
- 3 were in the hospital.
- 4 MR. BRADY: The Cape Gazette covered it.
- 5 WGMD got it on the radio.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Good news.
- 7 MR. BRADY: Yeah. And they were booking my
- 8 funeral, but --
- 9 MR. FILICKO: Were you in an accident?
- 10 MR. BRADY: -- I pushed it off again. I hit
- 11 my head. Then I hit my head again. And then it caused
- 12 a -- it went from a staph infection to cellulotis --
- 13 cellulitis to pneumonia and a cold. So I got to spend
- 14 seven days. I went through all 21 of the pink menus at
- 15 Beebe. The pink menu is the heart healthy menu. I
- 16 looked forward to my Cheerios. That was my best meal of
- 17 the day.
- MR. FILICKO: Well, we're glad to have you
- 19 back.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Unintelligible) lose
- 21 weight.
- MR. BRADY: There's about 20 pounds less of
- 23 me, yes. But I also apologize; I missed the Board of
- 24 Adjustment meeting, Ms. Chair. I think they told you I

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1 was sick. I don't know if they told you I was in the
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- 2 hospital.
- 3 MS. ROGERS: That's --
- 4 MR. BRADY: My office didn't tell anybody
- 5 where I was, except you could go on the website --
- 6 MS. PFEIL: You didn't train well.
- 7 MR. BRADY: -- and find out I was in 301.
- 8 People did find me.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: And I want to open it up to Bob.
- 10 He's been here long, and I look forward to working with
- 11 him. We had -- We worked with Cabe in the Town of
- 12 Millsboro, as well, is our client, and Cabe is the
- 13 engineer there. So we have a good relationship with
- 14 that company. I think the three of us can work well to
- get you a good product. But he's been here, so I'm
- 16 really going to tap into that knowledge, as far as what
- 17 you see that we can do things better or issues.
- 18 MR. KERR: The biggest thing is probably
- 19 sticking to schedules and dates. I think it's really
- 20 slipped lately that -- the 21 days before a submission.
- 21 I know lots of times I've gotten the information on
- 22 Friday, trying to get it to you a week before the
- 23 meeting, and I get it three days before the meeting.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.

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1 MR. KERR: And it turns out I'm out of the
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- 2 office that day. So Tuesday afternoon is when I'm
- 3 putting the information together for you. It doesn't
- 4 even give me a chance, lots of times, to review the
- 5 memo, much less the information.
- 6 Possibly looking at the way you are
- 7 conducting meetings, sometimes the public meeting gets
- 8 into more of a roundabout, everybody talking at once.
- 9 Some communities, some of the counties, the applicant
- 10 speaks, sits down, says nothing else, that's it. They
- 11 get their one chance. Each person gets to speak once,
- 12 sits down, that's their chance, as opposed to having ten
- 13 people ask the developer the same question ten times and
- 14 the developer feels he has to answer it. And that can
- 15 delay meetings.
- MS. PFEIL: So they do do public comment,
- 17 the Planning Commission?
- 18 MR. KERR: Yes.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 20 MR. KERR: During the public hearing portion
- 21 of it.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 23 MR. KERR: But there have also been times
- 24 when, even when they go into the business session, that

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1 it starts up again.
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- MS. PFEIL: Oh, disruptive.
- 3 MR. KERR: And typically, the public gets to
- 4 speak at the public -- and stop me if I'm crossing that
- 5 legal line, John. But when many other places do it,
- 6 they only get one opportunity to speak. Everybody gets
- 7 to have their say. But it doesn't become -- it's not
- 8 the same discussion that you have amongst yourselves,
- 9 asking questions and commenting. That's kind of your
- 10 prerogative, how much you want to discuss it.
- But there have just been some nights when,
- 12 you know, when you have a single public hearing, the
- 13 public hearing part or portion goes on for two hours.
- 14 And the restaurant was kind of a perfect example, how
- many times the public asked about the noise.
- MR. FILICKO: John --
- 17 MR. KERR: And the next person would stand
- up and want the developer to answer the same question.
- MS. PFEIL: Oh.
- 20 MR. KERR: And so the developer would try to
- 21 go through answering the same question again and again.
- MR. FILICKO: Shouldn't the questions from
- 23 the public be directed to --
- MS. WEEKS: Us?

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1
                  MR. FILICKO: -- the Board members as
 2
      opposed to --
 3
                 MR. BRADY: And we have tried to say that.
 4
                 MR. FILICKO: -- the developer.
 5
                 MS. WEEKS: And we do that.
 6
                  MR. BRADY: And we say that at the beginning
 7
      of the meetings.
 8
                 MR. FILICKO: But yet --
 9
                  MR. BRADY: But sometimes in order to try
10
      and resolve the question when there is a pressing issue,
      there becomes an interchange from the public to the
11
12
      applicant. We've tried to direct those comments. And
13
      it becomes an enforcement issue that if people are clear
14
      on the policies and procedures -- and there may be a
      handout, welcome to our Planning & Zoning Commission --
15
      when during the public hearing, the presenter/applicant
16
17
      will present questions.
                  The public comments are made to the Board,
18
      the Commission. And if there is a question that the
19
20
      public has for the applicant, that's made to the
      attention of the Chair. And the Chair or a Member of
21
      the Commission will ask the applicant that question.
22
23
      But that's part of the formal versus informal. There
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are formalities. And when you close the public hearing

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1 and go into the discussion of the business on the
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- 2 agenda, the Freedom of Information Act and the Attorney
- 3 General opinions don't require you to permit additional
- 4 public comment. In the past, you have chosen to do that
- 5 to accommodate the public. So that becomes a decision
- for the Commission as to how they want to proceed.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: I think we can work on a tool,
- 8 maybe, to give the Commission, whether it's a laminated
- 9 poster board or that we can put in here of the meeting
- 10 format that everybody can see when they come to your
- 11 meetings.
- 12 I think that's very important, because like
- 13 you said, when the developer comes up and does the
- 14 introduction and does their -- there's a lot of those
- 15 times you can even put a time limit on it. If they want
- 16 to say a ten-minute presentation and then it goes into
- 17 Council discussion or questions, if it hasn't been
- addressed, that's a good time for the public to come.
- 19 But the public is going to interact. And you know, we
- 20 are not controlling the meetings, it sounds like. All's
- 21 we have to do is get Linda the gavel.
- MS. ROGERS: I can control the meetings
- 23 pretty well.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

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1 MS. ROGERS: We're just really -- like the
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- 2 Iguana Grill, it was very difficult to get the citizens
- 3 to stop with, you know, we've answered every question we
- 4 can answer about the noise.
- 5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: You know, we're not going to
- 7 know, until they open, how much it's going to carry or
- 8 whatever.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- MS. ROGERS: And to try to appease those
- 11 citizens to make them feel comfortable that, you know,
- we're going to do the best we can to make sure this
- doesn't interfere with your quality of life.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: Sometimes it's better to just
- let them go ahead and say what they've got to say.
- MS. PFEIL: And they are in the record,
- 18 because you don't --
- MS. ROGERS: Yes.
- 20 MS. PFEIL: I mean noise ordinances are one
- 21 of the worst things that you probably discuss --
- MS. ROGERS: Right.
- MS. PFEIL: -- about the decibels and how to
- 24 enforce them.

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1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.
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- MS. PFEIL: So in that case, it's probably
- 3 great that you let that go a little bit so it's in the
- 4 record, because that's what they want.
- 5 MS. ROGERS: And often times, when we've
- 6 closed the public hearing, I mean I try very much to go
- 7 is the applicant, the people in favor, the people
- 8 against. And I'm constantly -- and I think they'll
- 9 verify the same -- please address your comments here.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- MR. BRADY: Absolutely.
- MS. ROGERS: The developer will
- 13 automatically answer them. And a lot of times they
- don't have to, you know.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: And you know, we do try to say:
- 17 Please direct your comments to the Board.
- MR. BRADY: And Madam Chair, you've also
- 19 been very accommodating when an issue has come up in the
- 20 business session that wasn't thought of in the public
- 21 hearing. And then there have been some people in the
- 22 audience that wish to address that issue. And you've
- 23 allowed to reopen it to get that comment in.
- 24 That came up with -- just going back to the

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1 Iguana Grill, about the wet bar the first time. And
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- then they said: Well, we weren't going to have the
- 3 service bar. And they said: Well, is the wet bar the
- 4 service bar? And they had to come back and explain it.
- 5 Then there was the issue about the outdoor music and the
- 6 speakers.
- 7 So I think you've been very accommodating,
- 8 and there needs -- I hate to use the word rigid
- 9 flexibility. But I think you need to have: Here is our
- 10 format.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MR. BRADY: But you can be a little flexible
- 13 before something comes up, because those two meetings
- 14 were probably the two biggest attended, short of the
- daycare meetings that we've had. And daycares and
- 16 restaurants seem to be big-issue meetings --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 18 MR. BRADY: -- where a lot of citizens come.
- MS. ROGERS: Yes. When we had the bakery,
- 20 the room was full.
- MR. BRADY: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: They all want their baked
- 23 goods.
- MR. BRADY: So there's where you want to

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1 have flexibility to let everybody say their piece, but
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- 2 also to try and keep it on track.
- 3 MS. PFEIL: And one of those options might
- 4 be for, when Robin meets with them, is to get as much
- 5 information as possible up front. It sounds like there
- 6 was a lot of unknowns that came out, but to get as much
- 7 information up front. I mean there's a lot of questions
- 8 we can role play with Robin between -- especially Bob
- 9 Kerr and I -- what are your hours going to be? Are you
- 10 playing loud music? Are you going to have alcohol
- 11 outside of the establishment, because that is an ABC
- 12 approval. That's not necessarily a city, unless it's in
- 13 your -- or town, unless it's in your ordinance.
- 14 We can probably get a checklist of all the
- 15 questions and all the things that we think that would
- help make a decision. And there might be a couple of
- 17 surprises that come up. But that pre-development
- 18 meeting may have put a couple of things to bed or a
- 19 couple of things to rest that maybe didn't have to get
- 20 elevated as much. That might be an option.
- 21 MR. FILICKO: Debbie, John, Bob, it seems as
- 22 though when they bring their agenda to us, that it is
- often incomplete. For example, we don't know where the
- 24 trash is going to be, the lighting, the parking spaces

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1 aren't clearly defined. Is there a way where that
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- 2 information has to be before us prior to hearing them?
- 3 MR. BRADY: That was part of what I was late
- 4 for, also, because --
- 5 MR. FILICKO: Yeah.
- 6 MR. BRADY: -- I came in late. It was part
- 7 of the initial discussion when I got here called
- 8 pre-qualifying the application --
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MR. BRADY: -- to make sure for, such as a
- 11 preliminary site plan, which does require those items
- 12 that you just cited, that they all be completed. And so
- 13 they can be reviewed my Bob to make sure they comply
- 14 with the Code under the engineering. They can be
- 15 reviewed by Robin to make sure all the necessary
- 16 application -- the proper terminology is in use, because
- 17 the worst thing that can be done -- when you're on the
- 18 Commission, is being surprised at the time of the
- 19 meeting because it has something incomplete.
- 20 And pre-qualifying the application, getting
- 21 the checklist in place, it may take a little longer and
- 22 the balances a properly filled-out application, with all
- 23 the proper support material and the proper reviews, make
- your job easier because then you can focus on exactly

- 1 the issues that you come up in your review.
- 2 Ms. Weeks has said it. Chairman Rogers has
- 3 said it. There are things missing from this application
- 4 that we need to know. And without that, we can say
- 5 conceptually, we review it tonight.
- 6 One example is when you started with the
- 7 revisions to the shopping center at 5 and 16, if I've
- 8 got my route numbers right, and how they came in with
- 9 the conceptual plan. And they were missing a lot of
- 10 things, and then they wanted to put the back of the
- 11 building right on Route 5. And by your discussions that
- 12 night, you gave them some frame works, for when they
- 13 came back the next time, they had a better idea of what
- 14 was required and what you were looking at.
- 15 And these are the kind of things -- because
- if your job is easier because you have the complete kit,
- 17 that means we are doing our job right. And that's what
- 18 we are trying to do.
- MS. PFEIL: And you now have a position,
- 20 where before you had a half a position, a part-time
- 21 position, and that position was responsible for other
- 22 things. Now I know that the Town has vested me spending
- 23 time with Robin to get things set up in a procedure,
- 24 work with the consultants and say: Does this work for

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1 all of us? John, is it legal? Bob, is this what we
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- 2 want to do with the engineering side?
- I think you're going to see some products
- 4 come. But what I was telling you in the beginning, too,
- 5 is it might be a longer process in the beginning for
- 6 somebody to go through, but the reward on this is if you
- 7 follow the checklist and you are an engineer that can
- 8 read the checklist or a surveyor that can read the
- 9 checklist or architect and you follow the checklist and
- 10 you do a good product, on the tail end of this, it
- should be three meetings, four with Council, I mean for
- 12 site plan anyways. It should be that simple. And we
- should be able to just work out some minor things.
- 14 Conceptual should be the time to bring up as
- much as possible. Preliminary is the time to tailor it
- up a little bit, and final is really a rubber stamp with
- 17 outside agencies.
- 18 MR. KERR: One of the problems -- and this
- 19 whole process works much better for large developers or
- 20 new green space or new field, existing area, as opposed
- 21 to going in and doing something existing. Those seem to
- 22 be the ones that I struggle the most with, trying to
- 23 find out what the information is.
- 24 An example, the daycare had a site -- had a

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1 portion of a site plan that was done when the church was
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- 2 expanded, either 10, 15, 20 years ago. The parking lot
- 3 layout shown on the site plan had nothing to reflect
- 4 what was actually, physically there in the field. It
- 5 was one of those that, if you'll recall, we didn't have
- any information until night, when the minister of the
- 7 church stood up and said: Yes, we own the land and we
- 8 are in favor of it. Up until that point, there was
- 9 nothing that said, in the package, whether the church
- 10 was in favor of it. Those kinds of things --
- MS. WEEKS: Don't know where the
- 12 playground's going to be.
- MR. KERR: Yeah. It was just -- you know,
- 14 it was a pretty incomplete package that the smaller site
- 15 plans, rezonings, those types of things that will always
- be more difficult, and they are typically the people who
- try to get by without having a professional, who
- 18 hopefully goes through the ordinance and does do the
- 19 checking.
- So keep that in mind while we're going
- 21 through this process, is how -- for somebody who is
- 22 trying to do the very small businesses, the burden is as
- 23 large as it is for a major developer.
- MR. BRADY: Then I threw you for a loop by

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1 telling you the effect of a new ordinance the Town had
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- 2 passed, which --
- 3 MS. ROGERS: Which truthfully, that
- 4 ordinance didn't have anything to do with land use.
- 5 MR. BRADY: It did not.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: It just had to do with someone
- 7 living next door, which --
- 8 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 9 MR. BRADY: Correct.
- MR. FILICKO: Oh, that's just --
- MS. ROGERS: -- you know, our view was
- 12 you've got to look -- and I find that is a difficult
- thing for us to do, which is you're dealing with a land
- 14 use issue. And it's a land use issue alone. And you
- 15 can't draw in other things.
- MR. BRADY: Understood.
- MS. ROGERS: And I'm actually surprised he
- 18 can stay there, beings as close to that school property
- 19 as he can. But that's another subject.
- 20 MR. BRADY: You are correct. But I just
- 21 raised it, because I have to explain. And that's why I
- 22 had to have you say what you did, so I could have a
- 23 proper record that you understood all the collateral
- 24 effects.

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1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.
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- 2 MR. BRADY: Although it was not a per se
- 3 land use, it did deal with the use of somebody's land.
- 4 And you did a good job in explaining that on the record.
- 5 MS. ROGERS: Well, thanks.
- 6 MR. KERR: That might be something else that
- 7 needs to be discussed a little bit further, is -- and
- 8 I'll --
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Complications.
- 10 MR. KERR: And I'll spit it out wrong,
- 11 probably. But there have been times -- and you know
- 12 that I've been here a long time, so I may be going back
- 5 or 10 years, even -- where somebody comes in for an
- 14 annexation. And the focus seems to be on what color the
- front door is going to be on the property --
- MS. ROGERS: Uh-huh.
- 17 MR. KERR: -- not whether it's this piece of
- land best to be annexed into the Town, that's kind of
- 19 the question before you. And whether this door is going
- 20 to open to the left or to the right may not be an
- 21 appropriate question to go into that night. I'm being a
- 22 little facetious -- a lot facetious -- on that example.
- 23 But there are --
- MR. FILICKO: We get off the --

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1\, MR. KERR: There are times when you are
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- doing an annexation, and there is kind of one group of
- 3 questions --
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 5 MR. KERR: -- that you ask. When you are
- doing kind of toward the end of the annexation is the
- 7 rezoning or maybe it's just a piece of land in town,
- 8 there's another set of questions that are appropriate to
- 9 ask. And then when you get into an actual site plan,
- 10 there's a totally different group. And then there's a
- 11 group of questions that probably really shouldn't be
- 12 asked at any meeting.
- 13 It's kind of the one -- we have a list in my
- 14 office of the questions you're not allowed to ask when
- interviewing somebody for a position. And I know that
- 16 that's the first list that somebody pulls out. How old
- 17 are you? Are you married?
- 18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: What's your religion?
- MR. KERR: Do you plan to have kids?
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: What's your religion?
- MR. KERR: Yeah.
- MR. BRADY: Do you have a disability?
- MS. PFEIL: I think that's parameters.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Well, that's one place

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where -- that's one place where I think orientation
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- 2 meetings or re-orientation meetings --
- 3 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- will really help to
- 5 keep the whole Commission focused.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: I think that's good on
- 7 parameters. And probably a good example, we're going to
- 8 have tomorrow's annexation meeting tomorrow, that will
- 9 probably be different than what you have done in the
- 10 past. It is truly -- and I'll good back on Bob -- it is
- 11 what is your comprehensive plan? Say: Can you take it
- 12 in? What is the future land use? Say: Do you have any
- 13 concerns? Is there anything in kind for the Council,
- 14 back and forth. There's probably five conversations to
- 15 have during an annexation. It's not site plan. It's
- not what they are putting there, what the houses look
- 17 like, how much they are going to sell for? I'm just
- 18 going to go into a whole bunch I hear all the time.
- 19 What they are going to go for, how much they are going
- 20 to sell? Do you have multi-family? Do you do rentals?
- 21 Are they going to be HUD? All of those things come out
- 22 usually at a meeting.
- This is a land use decision and a
- 24 comprehensive plan decision. And when it comes to site

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1 plan is when you get more specific. And if you had
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- design standards, you could even get more specific. But
- 3 without having those, like you said, it's within the
- 4 parameters you kind of have to watch what you're
- 5 requiring.
- And probably with the three of us guiding
- 7 you a little bit in the process and attending the
- 8 Planning Commission meetings, that might help you a
- 9 little bit to just say: Great idea. Or another good
- 10 example is everybody wants to control entrance points
- 11 for DelDOT. If it's a state-maintained roadway, good
- 12 luck. It is a DelDOT jurisdiction. It is a fire
- 13 marshal jurisdiction. You may have some conversations,
- 14 but it is their jurisdiction. It's not even in your
- 15 Code to work in that.
- So I think we can help you, you know, keep
- 17 within the parameters. And if there's things that you
- 18 want to see, let's look at writing the ordinance or code
- 19 or look at getting you the tools.
- 20 MS. ROGERS: All right. I have a question
- 21 about annexation. It's always been very gray to me.
- 22 And at the time you annex a parcel into town -- you've
- 23 made the decision, recommendation to the town -- it has
- 24 to be annexed with a zoning classification. Correct?

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1 MS. PFEIL: It depends on what -- yes. Some
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- 2 charters say -- like in some municipalities, some
- 3 charters say you must come in as, as an example, R-1 and
- 4 then you go for a rezone process.
- 5 MS. ROGERS: Well, that's what we have
- 6 always --
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Some do that.
- 8 MS. ROGERS: -- done in the past.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Now, I didn't find that in your
- 10 Charter, where you have to come in as a specific
- 11 zoning --
- MR. KERR: No.
- MS. PFEIL: -- when I did the process.
- MS. ROGERS: It's not in there. But we've
- 15 always asked that they come in, because that's the most
- 16 restrictive.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 18 MS. ROGERS: And then when they come in for
- 19 a change in zoning, you are more able to pin them down
- 20 as to what they want to do than at the time of
- 21 annexation.
- MS. PFEIL: Especially if they're asking for
- 23 a split zoning --
- MS. ROGERS: Right.

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2
      multi-family and single family --
 3
                 MS. ROGERS: Right.
 4
                 MS. PFEIL: -- to make it more site
 5
      specific. It can be a recommendation for the
      Commission -- it's up to the Council -- as the ultimate
 6
 7
      decision if they are going to allow that zoning. But it
 8
      can be a recommendation to say: Without a specific site
 9
     plan, we don't want to give you the density of
     multi-family, not knowing what you're bringing in.
10
                 MS. ROGERS: Well, I think that's the reason
11
12
      in the past we've always leaned toward doing our most
13
      restrictive zoning classification, which would be the
14
      least density. And then if they want to up that
      density, they come back in with a public hearing and a
15
      site plan and it's: This is what you want to do. And
16
17
      then you are not dealing with: Well, can we provide the
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MS. PFEIL: -- should they want, maybe,

MS. PFEIL: Right.

determined that we can.

MS. ROGERS: And then you can deal with:

amenities, the police protection, everything that you

need if we annex this parcel of ground? That's all been

- 23 Well, now, can we do from 100 units on this parcel to
- 24 400 units on this parcel?

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1 MS. PFEIL: Correct.
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- MS. ROGERS: And how are you going to group
- 3 them? So I mean I don't think that is actually written
- 4 in any of our rules.
- 5 MS. PFEIL: As long as you feature --
- 6 MS. ROGERS: It's been our policy that
- 7 that's what we have done.
- 8 MS. PFEIL: As long as you feature land use
- 9 category in your comp plan as adopted and went through
- 10 state law, as long as that matches the zoning; for
- 11 example, if something does say multi-family and you give
- 12 it R-1, you've gone against your comp plan if you truly
- 13 say multi-family zoning.
- 14 MR. KERR: The comp plan simply says
- 15 residential.
- MS. ROGERS: Right. It doesn't
- 17 specifically --
- MS. PFEIL: It doesn't tier it.
- 19 MR. KERR: -- did not tier it because of
- 20 that.
- MS. PFEIL: That's good.
- MR. KERR: There was -- Every effort was
- 23 made to not --
- MS. PFEIL: That's a smart move, right.

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      map really determine what -- Am I mistaken? The comp
 3
      plan -- the zoning map should reflect the comp plan.
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                 MS. PFEIL: It has to.
 5
                 MS. WEEKS: It has to.
 6
                 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
 7
                  MS. WEEKS: But our decision should be made
 8
      on the zoning map.
 9
                  MS. PFEIL: Well, when you give -- When you
10
     bring a piece of property in and you give it the zoning,
      then it has the right, under permitted uses, if it can
11
12
      meet all the other requirements. So once you give the
13
      zoning, that's when you give the right to do all of
14
      those permitted uses, if they can meet all the other
      requirements, like setbacks and everything else.
15
                 MS. ROGERS: And I think -- I think in the
16
17
      past, one of the major concerns and why, we always
      leaned toward recommending R-1 zoning, unless we knew
18
19
      specifically it was going to be a commercial site, like
20
      (unintelligible). It was because there's always that
21
      back of your mind, you give them R-3, that's X number --
                 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
22
23
                  MS. ROGERS: -- regardless of what they say
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they are going to do, you give them R-3 or maximum

MS. WEEKS: But isn't -- doesn't the zoning

- density, they can flip it, give it to somebody else.
- 2 They can come in with double the density. And there you
- 3 go; there's nothing you can do about it.
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Right. And it's smart to have
- 5 site plans attached with higher density zonings.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: But you can't really do all
- 7 that at an annexation point.
- 8 MS. PFEIL: At annexation, your key to the
- 9 Planning Commission is: What does your future land use
- 10 say? What is the appropriate zoning for that?
- MS. ROGERS: But I'm saying that it's very
- 12 much more complicated --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: -- when you set the annexation
- point you try to have them attach a site plan with it.
- 16 It's just a nightmare.
- MS. PFEIL: Unless they're going for
- 18 something that --
- MS. ROGERS: Very specific.
- 20 MS. PFEIL: There's some -- I have to word
- 21 this right. There are some areas where you can  $\operatorname{\mathsf{--}}$  where
- 22 you have a little bit more control on the government and
- 23 a little bit more bargaining power with the applicant.
- One is when they want to come in town. Another is when

- 1 they want a site plan. Another is before you give the C
- of O. I mean there are some tiers in there where you
- 3 still have some leverage to make sure things are done
- 4 right. They are check points. Before you give the C of
- 5 O, make sure everything is done on the site. Make sure
- 6 all the inspections are done. There are some check
- 7 points. And I think I agree with you; it's a site plan
- 8 process for your annexation.
- 9 The other thing to let you know, too, I
- 10 believe -- I wasn't here for the council meeting, but
- 11 the annexation committee for the small lot is all
- 12 Planning Commission?
- MR. DAVIS: Yes.
- MS. PFEIL: We are running annexations. We
- made a recommendation to the Mayor and the Town Manager
- 16 that the annexation committee gets appointed as a whole
- 17 as a Planning Commission. And my thought behind --
- 18 MS. ROGERS: That's the way it has been done
- in the past?
- UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.
- MS. PFEIL: Well, my thought behind that
- 22 is -- I hate to say this. But it's an extra meeting, an
- 23 extra set of minutes. And if you pick three, five, or
- seven, whatever the magic number is, you can pick three

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1 this time and then appoint three the next time. But
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- 2 nobody is on the same page of what process we just went
- 3 through. And this forum is truly the forum that really
- 4 recommends the comprehensive plan to the Town Council,
- 5 according to the state law.
- MS. WEEKS: I have a question, please, on
- 7 conditional use, if I may.
- MS. PFEIL: That one's you.
- 9 MS. WEEKS: Huh?
- MS. PFEIL: That one's him.
- 11 (Unintelligible).
- MS. WEEKS: A conditional use, are there any
- 13 requirements -- what -- vis-a-vis the zoning for
- 14 granting a conditional use? I mean is this like a
- 15 variance? Does it have to have certain requirements in
- it? I haven't been able to find them.
- 17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, you're supposed to
- 18 have it memorized. (Unintelligible) vacation in now.
- MS. PFEIL: Bet Joe will kick in.
- MR. BRADY: No. Would you --
- 21 MS. WEEKS: And do we give conditional --
- 22 MR. BRADY: -- Dewey delivered the Code to
- 23 me in the hospital so I could make rulings for them?
- 24 But Milton's --

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1 MS. WEEKS: Could I ask --
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- 2 MR. BRADY: -- was not delivered, so I did
- 3 not make any rulings.
- 4 MS. WEEKS: Does the Planning Board do
- 5 conditional uses because of Delaware 22 or because we
- 6 didn't have a Board of Adjustment before? What's the
- 7 difference between a conditional use and a variance?
- 8 MS. PFEIL: That's a good question.
- 9 MS. ROGERS: A variance is a setback
- 10 (unintelligible).
- MS. PFEIL: Unless it's a use variance,
- 12 which is a bad word.
- MS. ROGERS: What? Height, width and bulk.
- MR. KERR: Height width, and bulk, but not
- 15 the actual --
- MS. ROGERS: But conditional use is just
- 17 that.
- MS. WEEKS: Like multi-use.
- MR. KERR: -- use of the property.
- MR. BRADY: Correct.
- 21 MR. PFEIL: (Unintelligible) conditional
- 22 use.
- MS. WEEKS: The other thing I wanted to know
- 24 is: Do we as a Planning Board get involved in parking

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1 issues rather than the Board of Adjustment simply
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- 2 because it's in our ordinance that way, or is that the
- 3 way it's done everywhere in Delaware?
- 4 MS. PFEIL: If they can't meet the
- 5 requirements of parking, I'm sure you could park -- like
- 6 parking space reduction or interior lot width.
- 7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Planning & Zoning is
- 8 allowed to give --
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Reduction.
- 10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- reduction.
- 11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And the Board of
- 12 Adjustment doesn't get involved in parking because
- 13 that -- the only thing that we're actually involved with
- is height, width, and bulk, and that's it.
- MS. WEEKS: Is that state law, is what I'm
- 16 asking?
- MR. KERR: No, that's per --
- MS. PFEIL: No, that's your Code.
- MR. BRADY: That's per the Code and the
- 20 zoning ordinance.
- 21 MR. KERR: Lots of places --
- MR. BRADY: For example --
- MR. KERR: -- don't have conditional use.
- 24 MR. BRADY: -- Dewey Beach, all parking

- issues, Board of Adjustment.
- MS. PFEIL: The same thing with Georgetown,
- 3 yes. Harrington, too.
- 4 MR. BRADY: But not here. As I said, that's
- 5 why I go to the Code, because --
- 6 MS. PFEIL: It is hard.
- 7 MR. BRADY: -- I refer you to Chapter 11 in
- 8 the Code which talks about the 11(1), the conditional
- 9 uses. And it comes to Planning & Zoning, and then Town
- 10 Council has to approve. And I said I have two different
- 11 towns I represent, and it's night and day.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 13 MS. WEEKS: But there are no conditions for
- 14 conditional use, right?
- MR. BRADY: The conditions or conditional
- use are determined under 11.1.2. They have to provide
- 17 the locations appropriate, public health, safety, morals
- 18 and general welfare will not be adversely affected, that
- 19 adequate off street parking facilities will be provided.
- They do not contribute to the traffic problem on
- 21 congested roads, and necessary safeguards will be
- 22 provided for the protection of surrounding property,
- 23 persons, and neighborhood values. And the additional
- 24 standards of this ordinance are complied with, unless

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1 otherwise specified in this ordinance or as a specified
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- 2 condition of approval. Height limits, yard space,
- 3 auditory and sign requirements shall be the same for
- 4 other uses in the district in which a conditional use is
- 5 located.
- 6 MS. WEEKS: So now --
- 7 MR. BRADY: That's what Milton says.
- 8 MS. PFEIL: It's specifically -- very
- 9 specific.
- 10 MR. BRADY: There's the specific criteria
- 11 that you have to look at, and that is the part of the
- 12 criteria you have to make your determination. And
- 13 that's why last month, when you did for the daycare, I
- 14 had you make that record so the Town Council could
- 15 either accept it or reject it, because that is under the
- 16 due process.
- To give you a corollary, they're back in
- 18 court again in Middletown over Wal-Mart. Four times
- 19 they've tried to do that conditional use, and four times
- 20 it's been challenged, because they weren't reading their
- 21 ordinance and making a proper record. So if I make it
- 22 sound an hour long in order for you to say all the right
- 23 things, I'm doing it so you make the right record,
- 24 whatever way you decide, that it can be supported

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1 legally.
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- MS. WEEKS: Well, this would be a typical
- 3 case where -- at least for myself -- it would be a lot
- 4 more comfortable when we got our packet, it would say
- 5 please look at the ordinance, Article 11.1 --
- 6 MR. BRADY: Right.
- 7 MS. WEEKS: -- look at this, look at that.
- 8 MR. BRADY: Well, that's what we are going
- 9 to try and --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 11 MR. BRADY: -- do in the pre-qualification
- 12 in the packet.
- MS. WEEKS: Right.
- MR. BRADY: That was one of the
- improvements, when I met with Ms. Rogers, that said to
- help make our job better by putting everything out,
- 17 which was -- I think she really said: I don't want
- 18 surprises at the meetings --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 20 MR. BRADY: -- and I don't want long
- 21 meetings. I want everything here so people can follow
- 22 it orderly and so everyone understands.
- MS. PFEIL: And --
- MS. WEEKS: And the other thing I wanted to

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1 bring up, the infamous, ever-long meeting we had, that
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- 2 was two major subdivisions in one night.
- MS. PFEIL: Try seven. That's the top one
- 4 I've ever done, seven in one night.
- 5 MR. BRADY: Yeah, but that went after
- 6 midnight.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Right, right. But I can let you
- 8 know that if you have two major subdivisions and can't
- 9 get them through the night -- and I'm probably going
- 10 speak very honestly -- something is wrong in your
- 11 process. You're either focusing too much on things
- maybe we shouldn't, little things, or we aren't an
- organized structure for the developer and the applicants
- 14 to work together.
- 15 You can do a lot more than two major
- 16 subdivisions in a night. It just depends on your
- 17 meeting time frame and the parameters of what you are
- 18 looking at.
- 19 MS. WEEKS: Right. That was well before
- 20 Robin was here.
- MR. BRADY: Yes.
- MS. WEEKS: And that was an infamously --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes. Well, that will --
- MS. WEEKS: -- ill-prepared --

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1
                 MR. BRADY: But the other factor --
 2
                 MS. WEEKS: -- by the applicant.
                 MR. BRADY: -- is if one of those issues
 3
 4
      is --
 5
                 MS. PFEIL: Very controversial.
 6
                 MR. BRADY: -- very controversial --
 7
                 MS. PFEIL: Right.
 8
                 MR. BRADY: -- and there's a lot of public
      comment, all time frames go out the window --
 9
                 MS. PFEIL: Exactly.
10
                 MR. BRADY: -- when it's a public hearing.
11
12
                 MS. PFEIL: The other thing to let you know,
13
      too, I don't envision us to cut and paste your Code. I
14
      envision you to read your Code. I think the Planning
      Commission should be familiar with their Code. We can
15
      give you a copy, but you need to be familiar with that
16
17
     with everything that comes up. We won't -- I mean I'm
      not going to have Robin go -- his checklist will say the
18
19
      sections. But it's hard for the Planning Commission to
20
      solve all the problems and all the processes in one
21
      night.
                 But you want to familiarize yourself with
22
23
      your Code. You should be very, very familiar with two
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documents, your Code and your comp plan in the Planning

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1 Commission arena, very, very familiar. If you don't
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- 2 have either one of those, please get them from Robin
- 3 right away, because those are your two tools that the
- 4 Town has right now for you to do your job.
- 5 MS. ROGERS: Well, I think Ms. Weeks is
- 6 correct. I think we need a new copy of the ordinance,
- 7 because they have made changes and done things and
- 8 rearranged them.
- 9 MR. BRADY: You're right. And we need to do
- 10 the update.
- 11 MS. ROGERS: And I think we need a new one
- 12 that's fresh, because I know mine, I've taken pages
- 13 out --
- MS. PFEIL: Cut and pasted and marked up
- 15 and --
- MS. ROGERS: And --
- 17 MS. WEEKS: No, I didn't mean that Robin
- 18 should be cutting and pasting.
- MS. PFEIL: Right, right, yeah.
- MR. BRADY: No, I understood.
- MS. WEEKS: You said if --
- MS. PFEIL: I said we want to give you the
- 23 tools.
- MS. WEEKS: Right.

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1 MS. PFEIL: And if you don't have those
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- 2 tools, we want to give them to you.
- 3 MS. WEEKS: Right. There are certain parts
- 4 where -- for example, we discussed landscaping one time.
- 5 I know where it says we can look at landscaping.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 7 MS. WEEKS: And John, the attorney, came up
- 8 with the fact that they have to be two feet high. I
- 9 don't know where that is, you know.
- 10 MS. PFEIL: Yeah. Those would be those
- 11 hidden fun ones that we have to find for you.
- MS. WEEKS: Exactly.
- MS. PFEIL: And in our comments --
- MR. BRADY: That was in my Code.
- MS. PFEIL: Between the engineer and myself,
- we should be able to have you, in just about every
- section, to be able to give you a better job, between
- 18 the Planning & Zoning. But that's only if you allow us
- 19 enough time to review. Am I correct?
- 20 MR. KERR: And sometimes it's difficult
- 21 to --
- MS. PFEIL: Oh, yes.
- 23 MR. KERR: -- reference 60 different
- 24 paragraphs that apply.

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1 MS. PFEIL: Yes, uh-huh, yes. Is there
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- 2 anything else? I didn't want to take up too much of
- 3 anybody's time, but we wanted to let you know that -- I
- 4 know that they're investigating -- the Town is
- 5 investigating and making the process better for -- and
- 6 welcoming developers the right kind of development. And
- 7 they want to invest in the Planning Commission to make
- 8 sure you have the tools and everything to make the
- 9 process smoother, more delightful.
- 10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It sounds like that the
- 11 Town has decided to invest in 3 or 4 people to insulate
- 12 us from the miles and miles of discovery that the
- 13 Commission has had to do for as long as I -- I mean like
- 14 ten years. It always seems like the basics are done.
- 15 The applications are filled out. But when an applicant
- 16 comes here, it's like: Okay. We're going to get
- 17 started now. And a lot of it is discovery.
- 18 If you guys can better educate the
- 19 Applicants, okay, and keep the meetings -- plus it will
- 20 help keep the meetings on track, because we have sat
- 21 through a numbingly amount of hours for people to voice
- opinions about things that weren't applicable.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And sometimes it's the

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applicant playing to the crowd, trying to win over the
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- people and the Commission --
- 3 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- with stuff that don't
- 5 concern land use or the topic at hand.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Sometimes it's the general
- 8 public who have an emotional need to vent about
- 9 something they perceive to threaten them.
- 10 MS. PFEIL: That's true.
- 11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And sometimes it's lack of
- 12 focus from the Commissioners that get off. And if we
- 13 could eliminate that, yes, we could do multiple once.
- 14 But you three, you four are the only paid people here.
- 15 So I'm glad to see the Town is going to invest in what
- 16 it needs to do to keep us from having to do it, because
- 17 we have been doing it -- we've been doing it very
- 18 closedly. And we try to help where we can. But more
- 19 times than not, we are kind of doing it with one hand
- 20 tied behind our back --
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- because they're not
- 23 really pre-qualified, like they could or should be.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.

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1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So if you guys can do
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- 2 that, our job will be real easy.
- 3 MS. PFEIL: This was -- The knowledge and
- 4 flavor that you have on the Commission is very
- 5 important, because we have several clients. And after
- 6 you've spent some time with them, you kind of know this
- one doesn't want this, this one is really big on this.
- 8 This one is -- you can kind of tailor your views to
- 9 know --
- 10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And that's all good.
- MS. PFEIL: -- individually that helps.
- 12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: That's why -- that's why
- 13 we have a Commission --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- and a multiple of
- 16 perceptions, instead of an ATM machine where you just
- 17 plug in the data and it spits out a yes or a no.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I mean that's the function
- 20 of any Commission, because if it was looked at strictly
- 21 by the regulations, we wouldn't need people. It's just
- 22 like, you know, bap, bap, bap, bap, bum, and the machine
- gives you an answer. Well, that's how we're supposed to
- 24 function. So it's good to have multiple perspectives --

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1 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
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- 2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- on all these
- 3 applications. But I'm going to tell you -- and it may
- 4 continue. I don't know. It depends on how good a job
- 5 you all do, because again, you guys are the paid ones.
- 6 But the Town's got more than their value out of us --
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 8 MR. BRADY: Absolutely.
- 9 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- because a lot of times
- 10 we are asking questions that should have been asked, you
- 11 know, three weeks ahead of -- before there. And it puts
- 12 us on the spot. And the school was a perfect example.
- 13 You know, if we had followed every guideline, then it
- 14 was going to -- excuse me -- it was going to hurt the
- 15 kids, hurt our kids, you know, just because the look on
- 16 Tyrone's face, like: You mean I've got to come back? He
- 17 obviously was told and didn't know it or didn't get
- 18 told.
- MS. PFEIL: Expensive surprise.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Well, yeah. I mean we're
- 21 all sympathetic to the situation. I mean the school,
- 22 you know, there are all kind of regulations besides land
- 23 use there. And everybody is for it. But technically,
- 24 you know, we kind of --

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1 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
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- 2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: We kind of stepped over
- 3 the line a little bit in an effort to help the school
- 4 district. When we find ourselves trying to do that with
- 5 developers, just because we feel that sometimes the
- 6 system has let the applicant down --
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- they seem to be either
- 9 selectively or --
- 10 MR. BRADY: My official position for that --
- and I just -- we were very flexible in dealing with the
- 12 conceptual site plan, a preliminary site plan, and
- 13 scheduling a meeting one week out, with notice one week
- 14 out.
- 15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Oh, absolutely. I mean I
- 16 looked at the man and I --
- MR. BRADY: Right. Absolutely.
- 18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- said: Okay. What do
- 19 we do to get you going?
- 20 MR. BRADY: Right. You said: We need the
- 21 approval tonight. And I'm like --
- UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It can't happen.
- 23 MR. BRADY: -- no.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.

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1 MR. BRADY: Now, let's see. What's the next
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- 2 question (unintelligible).
- 3 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But he should have known
- 4 before he got to Planning --
- 5 MS. PFEIL: Correct.
- 6 MR. BRADY: Yeah.
- 7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- before he got to here.
- 8 MS. PFEIL: I think your missing link is
- 9 there now. And that's just Robin --
- 10 MS. ROGERS: And I think that happened with
- 11 the bakery.
- MR. BRADY: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: I mean he was ready to open.
- 14 And suddenly, it was: Oh, by the way --
- MR. BRADY: Yeah, you've got to -- you need
- 16 the --
- MS. ROGERS: You've got to have a public
- 18 hearing. Well, we accommodated that by how quickly can
- 19 we have the meeting for, because there was no problem --
- MS. PFEIL: Special meeting.
- 21 MS. ROGERS: -- there. Everybody knew --
- MR. BRADY: Right.
- 23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. We knew --
- MS. ROGERS: -- there was no problem with

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1 the bakery.
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- 2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: We caught ourselves
- 3 volunteering our free time --
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 5 MR. BRADY: Right.
- 6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- to try and accommodate
- 7 applicant and whoever comes to the Town for --
- 8 MS. PFEIL: And we want to try to stand on
- 9 your regular meeting, because the three of us have night
- 10 meetings that are other times, as well, like you do.
- 11 You have social functions or other groups and entities
- 12 you're in, as well, or other meetings that you have --
- MS. ROGERS: Well, one of the things --
- MS. PFEIL: -- so that set meeting is
- 15 important.
- MS. ROGERS: -- I think we need to implement
- is the applicant has a time frame.
- MS. PFEIL: Okay.
- 19 MS. ROGERS: Because I know that when some
- of the developers come and ask to present everything
- 21 from soup to nuts and we need to see the majority of it,
- 22 that they can always go to such a length that it starts
- 23 to confuse the process, if they are given more
- 24 information than they need for a site plan review. You

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1 know, the site plan is actually where they are going to
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- 2 put these houses and where are there going to be the
- 3 multi-families, and where is there going to be parking
- 4 and this. Okay. Then you get the site plan approved.
- 5 If you want to know what the houses are going to look
- at, that's a whole different issue.
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 8 MS. ROGERS: So I mean I see where
- 9 developers are coming in and they are presenting these
- 10 beautiful pictures of what the house is going to look
- 11 like and this park is going to look like this. Well,
- 12 you know what? Just show me where the park is going to
- 13 be.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: We'll also get --
- MS. ROGERS: Show us where the
- 17 multi-families are going to be.
- 18 MS. PFEIL: Yes. Do your homework ahead of
- 19 time so you can have your list.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Once they get the zoning,
- 21 they flip it and none of that comes to pass anyway.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But we spend hours and
- 24 hours and hours --

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1 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
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- 2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- debating and discussing
- 3 and negotiating and arguing. And all of a sudden, boom,
- 4 they come here for, you know, a land use decision. We
- 5 give it to them, and that stuff is gone.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: And the frustrating part we want
- 7 to make sure we don't do is to make sure that your hard
- 8 work -- and this does happen to some municipalities --
- 9 that you have the recommendation that goes to Council.
- 10 They approve it, and it doesn't get built the way it was
- 11 promised or it doesn't get built the way the site plan.
- 12 If there is major changes to the site plan, just about
- 13 every Code that I know says it goes back to the Planning
- 14 Commission.
- So we haven't had the tail end of things. I
- 16 mean Bob has been doing great and especially -- we
- 17 haven't had the tail end of the staff being involved in
- 18 outside approvals. I mean that end is very important,
- 19 because the front end of what we promised you is one
- 20 thing. And you've done your job. You feel really good,
- 21 like you had a good project. And then two years later
- or four years later or five, you are kind of disgusted
- 23 with what was built.
- MR. BRADY: I think you have that in your

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1 agenda next Tuesday.
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- MS. ROGERS: What have we got?
- 3 Shipbuilders?
- 4 MS. PFEIL: Oh, yeah.
- 5 MS. BRADY: Yes, ma'am.
- 6 MS. ROGERS: Again?
- 7 MS. PFEIL: I'm not doing my review there.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I think I heard something
- 9 tonight or had seen something tonight that we talked
- 10 about the bakery opening. It looks like, as I parked,
- 11 that they were just pouring curb. So somehow or
- 12 another, they got a COA before the site plan was done.
- 13 I don't know if there's anybody else in there that is
- open to business, but --
- MS. WEEKS: Yes.
- MS. ROGERS: Is the hairdresser open?
- MS. WEEKS: Yes.
- 18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So I mean there's another
- 19 case.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- of things happening in
- 22 the wrong order. Once you issue a CO --
- MS. PFEIL: You're done.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You essentially have no

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1 control over --
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- MS. ROGERS: And there again, that's where
- 3 this checklist ahead of time, where -- and I've said it
- 4 for 20 years. When somebody comes into that Town
- 5 Hall --
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 7 MS. ROGERS: They need to be given A, a
- 8 list.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 10 Ms. ROGERS: Then you do A, B, C, D, and E,
- and they need to be given a list of these are the fees
- you are going to have to go along with this process.
- 13 And they can't in the middle, go: Oh, by the way, now
- 14 you've got a thousand dollar fee to send it to a
- 15 planner. No, no, no. They need to know up front. I
- 16 got an advertising fee, a planning fee, an engineer
- 17 review fee, (unintelligible) fee.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 19 MS. ROGERS: You know, they need to know
- 20 this is what the fee is and go along with this process.
- 21 And sorry about your luck, but this is the way it is.
- 22 And as much as we want to help everybody and get new
- 23 businesses in town or whatever it takes, this is the
- 24 road you've got to follow. I mean it's very --

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1 MS. PFEIL: Every municipality is going
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- 2 through that. They're going through change, process
- demand, fees to pay for the development. So Milton
- 4 is -- right now it's great that you are reaching out
- 5 before everything --
- 6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: There's been several times
- 7 where this Commission has stepped outside its authority
- 8 to try to cover mistakes that were made at Town Hall to
- 9 promote business, to put, you know, the best foot --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- forward after the
- 12 mistake has been made. And that's prior to Robin.
- 13 And I --
- MS. ROGERS: Let's not point your finger,
- 15 either.
- 16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's not pointing a
- 17 financing. I think it's an issue of understaffing,
- 18 either when you've got --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- one guy trying to
- 21 interpret the Code, issue the permits, and do all the
- 22 enforcement --
- MS. PFEIL: Correct.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- and we go out and watch

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1 and make sure nobody's grass is too tall.
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- MS. PFEIL: That's not a fun position to be
- 3 in.
- 4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: No, no.
- 5 MS. PFEIL: Nobody likes you.
- 6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And I think the Town has
- 7 suffered because of it. I mean that's an understaffing
- 8 issue. It's not a (unintelligible).
- 9 MR. BRADY: I think you probably would agree
- we're moving forward.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MR. BRADY: Robin is being very dedicated as
- 13 Project Coordinator. When the issue came up with both
- 14 you, Chairman Rogers, and yourself, about a taping
- 15 system and a proper recording system, a better recording
- system was obtained so we could get better transcripts
- 17 and better records and better minutes of the meeting.
- 18 And we are trying to follow and do the right thing. And
- 19 this is part of that progress in moving forward.
- 20 MS. WEEKS: Just one other thing, when you
- 21 are the applicant, I remember when the Iguana Grill came
- in and the deck was a site review, he had no idea what
- 23 that meant, you know. And granted, some of that is on
- 24 him. Some of that's on him.

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1 MS. PFEIL: You have to -- and when he does
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- 2 his pre-development, there are some -- I know Bob and
- 3 (unintelligible) very well. There are some people when
- 4 you sit down, you have to take your words down quite a
- 5 bit, like it's a plot, it's a drawing. And there's
- other ones that you can say (unintelligible) 24 by -- by
- 7 engineering, 24 by 36.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Well, Bob's right on it.
- 9 Unless it's a developer --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- these restaurant
- 12 people, these bakery people, these daycare, they have no
- 13 idea --
- MS. WEEKS: That's right.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- about the process or
- 17 even the --
- MS. PFEIL: That's when you hold a lot of
- 19 hands. You can get them ready for the meeting. You get
- 20 them ready for a presentation. You do a lot of --
- 21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But that's done way before
- 22 it gets here.
- MS. PFEIL: Correct, correct.
- 24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So you guys, most all of

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1 this is on you, except for us developing a regimented,
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- 2 systematic laundry list of the way to go through our
- 3 process. The rest of this, as far as I hear, it's all
- 4 on you guys.
- 5 MS. PFEIL: We're just going to give you
- 6 better tools, is what our goal is, to do your job.
- 7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: We're good.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Part of it can be on us.
- 9 But part of it is on the applicant, because I don't want
- 10 to be responsible for telling --
- 11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.
- 12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- the applicant you need
- 13 to --
- 14 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: That's -- I don't mean
- it's all on you. It's on you --
- MR. BRADY: Right.
- 17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Do whatever I can --
- 18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- to communicate that to
- 19 them.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's truly the
- 21 applicant's --
- 22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I mean because by the --
- 23 Again, that's our problem. When they come here and
- 24 they've got maybe ten percent, they have a ten percent

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1 feel for what they actually need. And then all of a
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- 2 sudden, we're in the middle of the process, trying to
- 3 explain to them: Oh, no, you should have had this, and
- 4 what about this? And they are looking at us and we are
- 5 thinking: Well, gosh, down -- our support people at
- 6 Town Hall --
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- have to be able to
- 9 communicate that to them.
- MS. ROGERS: Well, John can tell you years
- 11 ago the Town didn't have anybody, and they were sending
- 12 them up to my office all the time.
- MS. PFEIL: Yeah.
- MS. ROGERS: And I'm like: I shouldn't be
- 15 talking to you.
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- MS. ROGERS: I shouldn't be talking to you.
- 18 I shouldn't be talking to you.
- MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Right.
- MS. ROGERS: And he came to a meeting, and
- 22 he didn't know who I was. I don't think we had name
- 23 tags at the time. And he wanted to know who the hell
- 24 this (unintelligible) woman named Linda Rogers. And

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1 I'm like me.
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- 2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: That's true.
- MS. ROGERS: And you know, that's the truth.
- 4 There was no one down there to give them the
- 5 information. I didn't have all the answers.
- 6 MS. PFEIL: Right.
- 7 MR. BRADY: And you are right. Part of it
- 8 is incumbent on Town to do, because we're going to have
- 9 some people like the bakery owners who are going to
- 10 represent themselves. We are going to have developers,
- 11 who are going to come in with engineers and planners and
- 12 lawyers. And we are going to have everything in
- 13 between. And we have to have the quality of service to
- 14 accommodate everybody to make sure everybody feels that
- 15 their application was handled with respect, that they
- were properly prepared, they knew what they needed to
- 17 have --
- MS. ROGERS: Right.
- 19 MR. BRADY: -- or they were at least told by
- 20 this guideline what they had. And the worst thing that
- 21 you can have happen is have the jaw drop at the meeting
- 22 because something like -- we had the minister. Is that
- 23 approved by the church board? Yes. Okay. Well, we
- 24 checked off that. That was on the list. And you know

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1 the impact to this. These are the kind of things that
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- 2 help make it a better process for everybody, and that's,
- 3 I think, what tonight is to -- talking about the
- 4 procedures and processes is what is trying to be done.
- 5 MS. WEEKS: One last question. Are we going
- to see you at our meetings from now on, Debbie?
- 7 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 8 MS. WEEKS: Good.
- 9 MS. PFEIL: I mean if there's an application
- 10 that I review, we will be here to represent -- for any
- 11 questions you may have.
- 12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Great.
- MS. PFEIL: And I'm assuming, especially if
- 14 I can do it -- now, if there is something that doesn't
- 15 credit a review --
- MR. BRADY: Just as long as we are not
- 17 called either --
- MS. PFEIL: Conflict.
- 19 MR. BRADY: -- the Pep Boys or the Three
- 20 Stooges --
- MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 22 MR. BRADY: -- those names should not be
- 23 ruled out (unintelligible).
- MS. PFEIL: I can tell you (unintelligible)

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1 out of whack here a little.
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- MR. BRADY: Huey, Dewey, and Louie, maybe,
- 3 but --
- 4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So --
- 5 MR. BRADY: Humpty Dumpty, probably.
- 6 MR. FILICKO: -- getting back to the site
- 7 plan, I don't believe -- and I'm not 100 percent certain
- 8 that the business on the corner of Route 16 -- well,
- 9 Michael Zimmerman's property, as far as the landscaping
- 10 goes, I don't think he has done what he has said that he
- 11 was going to do out there.
- 12 MR. BRADY: And what I'm going to suggest
- is, Robin, give that to our code enforcement person to
- 14 go pay a visit to follow up with what was discussed at
- 15 the last meeting, that they were there to see if they
- 16 were in compliance.
- 17 MR. DAVIS: And the problem with a lot of --
- 18 as we talked about all night -- it's not an issue of
- 19 pointing fingers at the past people or past commissions
- 20 or past whatever, staff. There's a lot of things, going
- 21 back and looking at minutes, there was no clear-cut
- 22 condition put on. Basically, when you say: We want the
- 23 landscaping upkept, who's going to then make that
- 24 determination? I could walk out there and say: It

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1 looks good to me. Michael, you could walk out there and
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- 2 say: That looks like crap.
- 3 MS. ROGERS: Right.
- 4 MR. DAVIS: Who's going to be the one to
- 5 sign off on that?
- 6 MS. PFEIL: When you have the plan, before
- 7 that last C of O, if it was part of the site plan
- 8 process, before you issue, you can make a determination.
- 9 You call the Chairperson of the Board and you call the
- 10 lawyer and say: We're going to let all the tenants go,
- 11 except we are going to hold the last C of on, or we are
- 12 not going to let any in. You just determine that
- 13 between your chairperson and your lawyer.
- But before -- if it's on the site plan, it's
- truly tangible, where Robin or the code enforcement
- 16 person can go out there and say: There were 12
- 17 plantings, and they were this kind of trees that had to
- 18 be done.
- 19 If we are not getting that detail, it's
- 20 putting your staff in a position to say: Well, if it
- 21 wasn't specific in minutes, it wasn't on the site plan,
- 22 they have landscaping out there. Then what he could do
- is call all nine of you and have a different opinion
- 24 about what maybe the landscaping should be.

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So in this process, we want it on the plan.
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- 2 We want the type of landscaping that's going to be done.
- 3 If it's not in your Code, we want it required or
- 4 strongly recommended. And that way, there's a tangible
- 5 to go out there; 15 spaces, 15 trees, that kind of
- 6 tangible review before you give the C of O, because they
- 7 shouldn't be in front of you for another project if they
- 8 haven't done the first one right.
- 9 MR. BRADY: And that's part of why, when we
- 10 have been doing some of these motions, that I've been
- 11 trying to cite that in so there is a written record.
- 12 And as we get the process going, I'm going to try and
- 13 have it typed, where you still have to print in any of
- 14 the conditions you put on it. But at least you have the
- motion typed, prepared both ways, the motion to approve
- 16 and the motion to reject. But the motion to approve has
- 17 the space where if you say 12 plantings of at least
- 18 three-inch circumference trees, and these must be
- 19 planted at least X number of days before or planted at
- 20 the time of the CO, they are the kind of things that can
- 21 be in there. And that's the kind of things you can do.
- 22 And that's the kind of things that you have been trying
- 23 to do recently.
- 24 But if we don't have it as part of the final

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1 approval for something previous, it may not be
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- 2 enforceable.
- 3 MS. PFEIL: Yes.
- 4 MR. BRADY: That's why we have been trying
- 5 to tighten up and make sure that with the roll call
- 6 votes and everything, that we're doing everything by the
- 7 letter of the Code and we are putting all those
- 8 conditions in. And then it doesn't feel like you are
- 9 rushing to get out of here, but you are trying to have
- 10 something in writing that Robin can have or the Town
- 11 Hall can have the next day so they have a copy of what
- was passed. That's what we have been trying to do,
- instead of just trying to transcribe it off the tape.
- 14 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Well, I'm very impressed
- at this meeting, because it seems like the three of you
- and Robin have really done some awfully good thinking
- 17 about this. And a lot of things that have worried a
- 18 number of us all along the road, you are addressing.
- 19 And I really appreciate all that work. I would never
- 20 call you the Three Stooges. Maybe Huey, Dewey, and
- 21 Louie, but you know --
- MR. BRADY: And I'm certain some
- 23 nicknames --
- 24 MS. PFEIL: That and some other ones, I'm

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1 sure.
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- 2 MR. BRADY: -- some nickname will come up,
- 3 and we will probably resent that remark.
- 4 MS. PFEIL: And I do want to thank you all
- 5 for coming a special night. I know this is another
- 6 night, and I know that the three of us had to coordinate
- 7 and Robin had to coordinate like crazy to get everybody
- 8 together. But your input is very valuable, and we are
- 9 starting to process.
- MS. WEEKS: Thank you.
- 11 MS. PFEIL: It's truly a start.
- 12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.
- MR. FILICKO: Will you be present tomorrow?
- MS. PFEIL: Yes, I will.
- MR. BRADY: Tomorrow, I --
- 16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Tomorrow is set.
- 17 MR. BRADY: I have a Supreme Court Justice
- 18 dinner at six in Dover. The minute I can get out of it,
- 19 I'll be here.
- 20 MS. PFEIL: And tomorrow, we're just
- 21 discussing the recommendations.
- MR. BRADY: Right.
- MS. PFEIL: But I think we got you a book,
- 24 right?

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2
     good for everybody to come to see the new process they
 3
     put in place.
 4
                 MR. BRADY: I think it's in office. But if
 5
     I'm not here, I'll try and --
 6
                 MS. PFEIL: We are just going to try and get
7
     the committee report together.
 8
                 MR. BRADY: Right.
9
                 MS. PFEIL: And then have Bob, you, and I
     look at the committee report --
10
11
                 MR. BRADY: That's fine.
12
                 MS. PFEIL: -- to see if there's anything
13
    we --
14
                 MR. BRADY: I don't think I'm going to get
15
     out of Dover until late.
16
                 MS. PFEIL: I just want to get them back on
17
     track.
                 MS. ROGERS: Is that it? Does anyone have
18
     anything?
19
                 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, the annexation.
20
                 MS. ROGERS: Not unless there are --
21
22
                 (Unintelligible).
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MS. WEEKS: Actually, I think it would be

24

23

| 1  | State of Delaware. )                                   |
|----|--|
| 2  | Kent County )  |
| 3  |  |
| 4  |  |
| 5  | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER                                |
| 6  | I, Cheryl A. Anthony, Delaware Certified Shorthand     |
| 7  | Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the |
| 8  | foregoing record, pages 1 to 103 inclusive, is a true  |
| 9  | and accurate transcript, to the best of my ability, of |
| 10 | my stenographic notes from the tape-recording of       |
| 11 | March 13, 2007, in the above-captioned matter.         |
| 12 |  |
| 13 |  |
| 14 |  |
| 15 | Cheryl A. Anthony Delaware CSR                         |
| 16 | Certification No. 107-PS (Permanent Certification)     |
| 17 | (Telmanent Celeffication)                              |
| 18 |  |
| 19 | DATED:   |
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